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CELEBRATING  
**25 YEARS**  
OF ACHIEVEMENTS





MESSAGE BY HOULIN ZHAO, ITU SECRETARY-GENERAL .....	2
MESSAGE BY BRAHIMA SANOU, DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (BDT) .....	3
HISTORY OF THE ITU TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT SECTOR .....	4
ITU-D ACHIEVEMENTS (1992-2017) .....	7
ITU-D PHOTO ALBUM .....	12
ITU-D TIMELINE .....	20
TESTIMONIALS .....	26
ITU-D 25 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS .....	BACK COVER



## MESSAGE BY HOULIN ZHAO

ITU  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

2017 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ITU-D, the Telecommunication Development Sector of ITU.

I feel proud when I look back on our remarkable achievements during these past 25 years. And I cannot help but think of all the lives that have been touched and transformed in the process.

Since 1992, ITU-D has played a key role in sustainable development, contributing to the rapid growth and expansion of telecommunication/ICT networks and services around the world.

Sustainable development drives the work of ITU-D whose role will be critical to the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda challenges us to create a world in which there is no poverty, zero hunger, and where people live healthy lives. It is a world where everyone has access to quality education, to clean water and sanitation, and to affordable and clean energy - a world where women and youth are empowered through information and communication technologies (ICTs) to tap into socio-development opportunities.

In this world, everyone has equal access to opportunities and no one is left behind.

As we celebrate our achievements, let us commit to working together to make that world a reality by 2030.

It is our responsibility to bring the power of ICTs to all nations, all people and all segments of society.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ITU-D is an opportunity to reflect on our future and identify innovative ways to move forward.

Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to ITU-D!



## MESSAGE BY BRAHIMA SANOU

DIRECTOR,  
ITU'S  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

Over the past 25 years, ITU-D has worked to help create a better future for everyone, everywhere.

Today, ICTs are a central part of our lives, helping to expand and improve access to government services, health care, education, agricultural services, financial and banking services, and market information, just to mention a few.

ICTs are improving peoples' lives and are empowering millions of people around the world to enhance their social and economic well-being.

The digital transformation we are all experiencing today would have been unimaginable 25 years ago.

ITU-D has come a long way and its achievements would not have been possible without the unwavering support of its Members.

This booklet, which celebrates 25 years of achievements of ITU-D, gives thanks to the sponsors of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and features inspiring testimonials.

Throughout its pages, you will be able to look back at our past accomplishments and glance at the future and the pivotal role that ITU-D will play for future generations.

# HISTORY OF THE ITU TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) was established at the [Additional Plenipotentiary Conference](#) held in Geneva from 7 to 22 December 1992.

The background of this move can be traced back to the Nice Plenipotentiary Conference held in Nice in 1989. Under [Resolution 55](#) of the Conference, a High-Level Committee was established to examine how ITU could respond effectively to the challenges of a changing telecommunication environment, based on an in-depth review of the structure and functioning of ITU. The Committee concluded its work in a report, entitled “[Tomorrow’s ITU: The Challenges of Change](#)”, which recommended that “the substantive work of the ITU should be organized in three Sectors: Development, Standardization and Radiocommunication”. The report further stated that the Development Sector “should encompass the current work of BDT”. These recommendations were adopted by the 1992 Additional Plenipotentiary Conference.

Chapter IV of article 21 of the ITU Constitution defines the functions and structure of the Development Sector. It also mandates the Sector to work through:

- world and regional telecommunication development conferences;
- telecommunication development study groups;
- the Telecommunication Development Bureau headed by the elected Director.

The Additional Plenipotentiary Conference also resolved to establish a Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB) to advise the Director of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau on priorities and strategies in the Union's telecommunication development activities and, *inter alia*, recommend steps to foster cooperation and coordination with other organizations interested in telecommunication development. The first TDAB meeting was held from 6 to 7 July 1993 in Geneva Switzerland. TDAB has a strategic consultative and advisory role. Its aim was to advise ITU on priorities and strategies for telecommunication development, and to advise ITU member States on how best to step up telecommunication development. TDAB drew upon the resources and experiences of both governments and the private sector. It was composed of 25 members nominated in their personal capacity for a period of three years. The World Telecommunication Development Conference held in Valletta, Malta in 1998 recommended that TDAB be converted into an advisory group open to all ITU-D members. As such, the TDAB was renamed [Telecommunication Development Advisory Group](#) (TDAG).

Under the new ITU structure, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), which was established in 1989 during the Plenipotentiary Conference held in Nice, became the administrative arm of the Development Sector, with responsibilities ranging from programme supervision and technical advice to the collection, processing and the publication of information relevant to telecommunications development.

The first BDT Director was Arnold Ph. Djiwatampu from Indonesia. Ahmed Laouyane from Tunisia served as second and he was followed by Director, Hamadoun I Touré from Mali, Sami Al-Basheer from Saudi Arabia and Mr. Brahima Sanou.



The first World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held following the creation of the Telecommunication Development Sector was [WTDC-94](#) which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 21-29 March 1994. In pursuant of Resolution 7 of the Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, the 1994 World Telecommunication Development Conference created [ITU-D study group 1 and 2](#). For 25 years, ITU-D study groups have provided a platform for exchange and consensus building, generating innovative ideas and good practices for the benefit of all.

WTDCs set the strategies and objectives for the development of telecommunication/ICT, providing future direction and guidance to the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D).

Since the establishment of ITU-D the following WTDCs were held:

- [WTDC-94, Buenos Aires](#), Argentina 21 - 29 March 1994;
- [WTDC-98, Valletta](#), Malta, 23 March -1 April 1998;
- [WTDC-02, Istanbul](#), Turkey, 18-27 March 2002;
- [WTDC-06, Doha](#), Qatar, 7-15 March 2006;
- [WTDC-10, Hyderabad](#), India, 24 May-4 June 2010; and
- [WTDC-14, Dubai](#), United Arab Emirates, 30 March- 10 April 2014.
- [WTDC-17, Buenos Aires](#), Argentina, 9-20 October 2017

In October 2017, WTDC returns to Buenos Aires where the entire ITU-D membership will have an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that ITU-D has played in the rapid growth and expansion of the telecommunication/ICT sector.

# ITU-D ACHIEVEMENTS

## (1992-2017)

Since 1992, the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) has immensely contributed to the rapid growth and expansion of telecommunication/ICT networks and services. Telecommunications/ICTs are helping to expand and improve access to government services, health care, education, agricultural services, financial and banking services, and market information.

Read how ITU-D has helped to improve people's lives over the past 25 years:

### 25 years of changing regulatory and market environments

- ITU-D convenes global and strategic dialogues among ICT regulators on the salient issues facing today's economies and societies to allow for knowledge exchange and regulatory best practice guidelines so that emerging trends are recognized, understood and integrated into policy and regulation. ITU Members and Sector Members have greatly benefited from these productive dialogues.
- ITU-D has been building human and institutional capacity at ICT regulatory authorities across the world through various executive and expert-level training activities as well as through direct technical assistance to ITU Member States.
- ITU-D has been building a solid evidence base for policy and decision making through the extensive data work on ICT policy, regulation, economics and financial issues.
- ITU-D has been tracking the evolution of the generations of ICT regulation through the ICT Regulatory Tracker, an evidence-based analytical tool, to guide policy makers and regulators as well as other stakeholders on regulatory and policy issues and provide the basis for human, technical and financial resources.

### **Maximizing the use of new technologies for the development of information and communication infrastructure and services**

- ITU-D has been assisting developing countries with the management of radio frequency to maximize the use of appropriate new technologies for the development of information and communication infrastructures and services.
- Since 2009, ITU-D has assisted more than 40 countries with the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting, bringing new opportunities to all stakeholders, from manufacturers, to broadcasters and end-users.
- ITU-D has developed masterplans for broadband networks to allow for high-speed transmission of voice, video and data.

### **Embracing innovation in the digital age**

- Since 2014, the ITU-D Innovation Platform has helped to strengthen Members' capacity to integrate ICT innovation in their national development agenda and to promote a culture of innovation.
- ITU-D conducts ICT Centric Innovation Reviews to help develop digital innovation ecosystems, accelerate digital transformation, catalyze ICT entrepreneurship, and enhance ICT sector competitiveness.
- ITU-D is helping to build digital innovation frameworks and roadmaps with a toolkit fostering digital transformation.

### **Strengthening partnerships for development**

- ITU-D continues to promote and enhance partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders. More than 900 agreements have been signed with a great variety of stakeholders from the public and private sector, regional and international organizations, UN Agencies, financial institutions, academia, and foundations.

### **Harnessing the power of mobile phones: everyday, everywhere**

- ITU-D has been harnessing the power of mobile phones and mobile applications to deliver a wide range of services and information to the public and especially to people living in rural and remote areas.

### **Collaborating and exchanging knowledge to address ICT priorities through ITU-D Study Groups**

- ITU-D Study Groups are a unique neutral contribution-driven platform where experts gather to produce relevant tools, useful guidelines and resources for our Membership on development issues.

### **Keeping the online world safe**

- ITU-D has been working with partners from public, private sector, academia, international organizations and civil society to support ITU Members in building trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

### **Building capacity and new skills**

- Through the Centers of Excellence ITU-D has helped to build the skills needed in the digital area and has responded to the high demand for training for policy makers, regulators and executives.
- The ITU Academy works to harmonize, integrate and bring all training activities within ITU under one roof.
- ITU-D works with more than 20 partners from within its Membership, leveraging on their unique expertise in developing human and institutional capacity for the Membership.

### Measuring the information society

- Global benchmarking tools produced by ITU-D are widely-used by governments to monitor their policy achievements.
- ITU-D leads the global monitoring of the information society and offers the main global platform for standard-setting of telecommunication and information society measurements.
- The successful collaboration on ICT Measurements has led to the inclusion of the ICT indicators in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators framework, which serves as a basis for data production and monitoring of key development aspects until 2030.

### Ensuring ICT accessibility and the use of ICTs for the social and economic development of all

- The international Girls in ICT Day campaign is a driving force that encourages and empowers girls and young women to prepare for and take up ICT careers as well as to raise awareness among decision makers on the need to attract more women to ICT jobs.
- ICT policy makers, regulators and private sector stakeholders have at their disposal a powerful tool to create their own policy and regulatory framework on ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities.
- ICT policy makers, regulators and private sector stakeholders have benefitted from extensive training to build their capacity to design and implement a range of policies regulations and practices to ensure ICTs are accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Trusted ITU research has built a solid evidence base for policy and decision-making on digital skills to increase youth employment. This research is enhanced by related training programmes and awareness raising on digital skills for youth employment.

### Saving lives

- ITU-D has facilitated emergency disaster response by deploying emergency telecommunication equipment when disasters strike and preparing countries for disasters, including through the use of new technologies and tools

- ITU-D uses big data are increasingly to fight epidemics
- Global, national and regional workshops and trainings have helped to increase awareness, provide guidance and build capacity of policy makers and governments in the area of ICTs for disaster management and to strengthen human and institutional capacity.
- Public-private partnerships and synergies have helped to amplify the effectiveness of disaster management.

### **Ensuring that no country is left behind on the journey to socio-economic development for all**

- ICT opportunities have been created to leapfrog development challenges and ensure that the most vulnerable are not left behind.

### **Protecting the environment with a focus on climate change and e-waste**

- ITU-D tackles the challenges of climate change and e-waste by providing ITU Member States with concrete solutions.
- ITU-D works towards the environmentally sound management of e-waste and tackle the e-waste problem by quantifying it.

### **Joining forces: bringing together all stakeholders**

- ITU-D brings together ITU Member States, Telecommunication companies, Academia and other stakeholders in the ICT sector to share knowledge, experience and best practices.

### **Implementing projects to make the world a better place**

- Projects implemented by ITU-D have been making a difference in the lives of people and have offered sustainable and innovative solutions around the world to achieve development through ICT.
- Over the years, ITU-D has strengthened its project execution role to better support developing countries around the world.

# ITU-D PHOTO ALBUM



Opening of the 1992 Additional Plenipotentiary Conference,  
Geneva, Switzerland



Bernard de Riedmatten, Chair of the 1992 Additional Plenipotentiary Conference



Arnold Djiwatampu takes his seat as  
first BDT Director at the  
1992 Additional  
Plenipotentiary Conference



1992 Additional Plenipotentiary Conference,  
Geneva, Switzerland



ITU Secretary General Pekka Tarjanne  
speaks at WTDC-94,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina



WTDC-94,  
Buenos Aires,  
Argentina



ITU-D Study  
Group 1  
First meeting,  
March 1995



ITU-D Study  
Group 2  
First meeting,  
May 1995





WTDC-98  
Valletta, Malta: Haim Mazar, BDT Director Ahmed Laouyane  
and Menahem Ohali



First Global Symposium for Regulators,  
November 2000,  
Geneva, Switzerland



From left to right: Erol Çakır, Governor of İstanbul; Oktay Vural, Turkey's Minister of Transport and Communications; Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of Turkey; Yoshio Utsunomiya, ITU Secretary-General; Fatih Mehmet Yurdal, President of the Telecommunications Authority of Turkey; and Roberto Blois, ITU Deputy Secretary-General

High-level dignitaries  
at WTDC-02,  
Istanbul, Turkey



WTDC-02  
Istanbul, Turkey



WTDC-06  
Doha, Qatar



WTDC-10  
Hyderabad, India



9th World  
Telecommunication/  
ICT Indicators  
Symposium,  
December 2011,  
Port Louis,  
Mauritius



WTDC-14,  
Dubai  
United Arab  
Emirates



Global Symposium for Regulators,  
July 2017,  
Nassau, Bahamas

22nd Telecommunication Development  
Advisory Group,  
May 2017,  
Geneva, Switzerland



Regional Preparatory  
Meeting for CIS,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic,  
November 2016



Regional Preparatory  
Meeting for Africa,  
Kigali, Rwanda,  
December 2016



Regional Preparatory  
Meeting for Arab States,  
Khartoum, Sudan,  
January 2017







Regional Preparatory Meeting  
for the Americas,  
Asunción, Paraguay,  
February 2017

Regional Preparatory Meeting  
for Asia-Pacific,  
Bali, Indonesia,  
March 2017

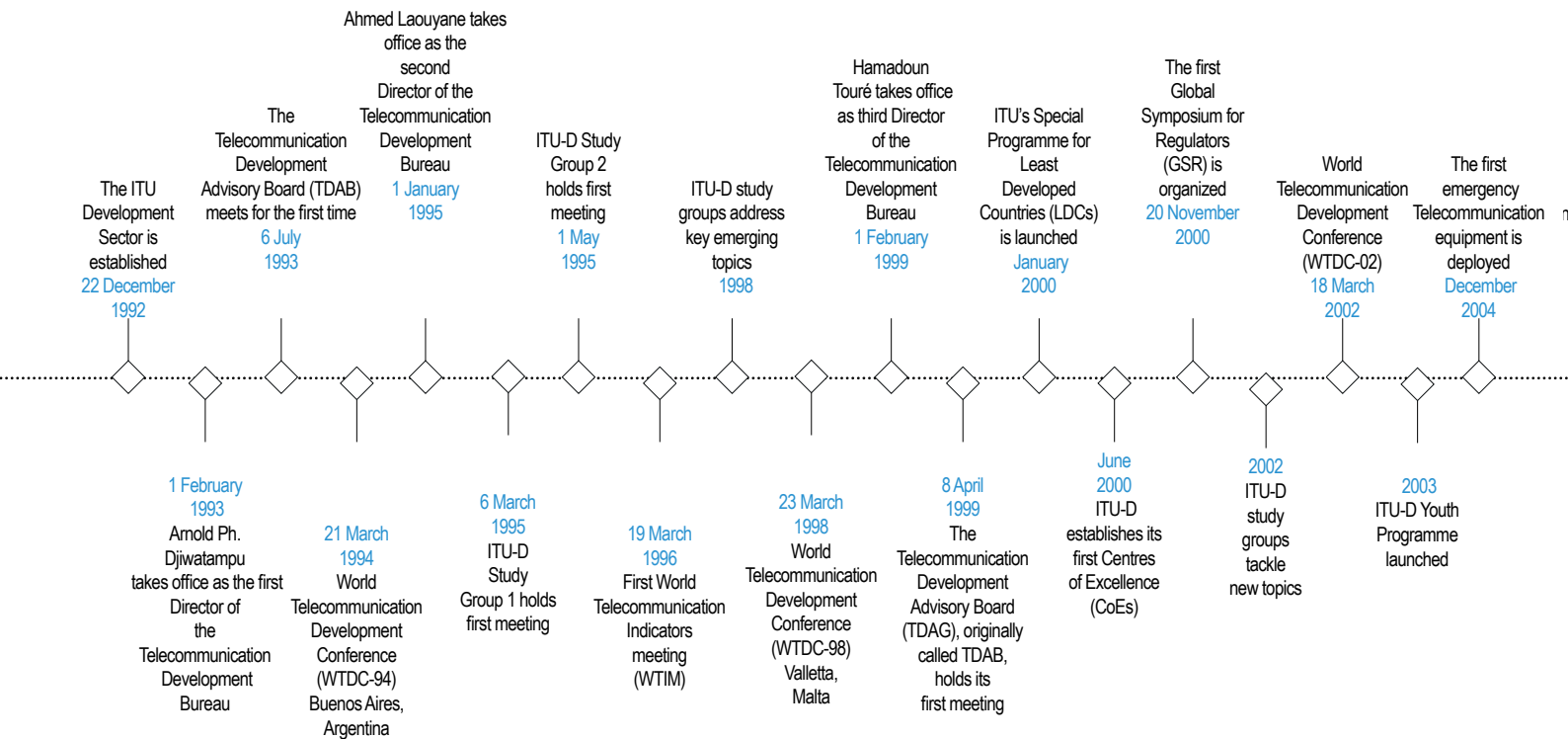


Regional preparatory  
Meeting for Europe,  
Vilnius, Lithuania,  
April 2017

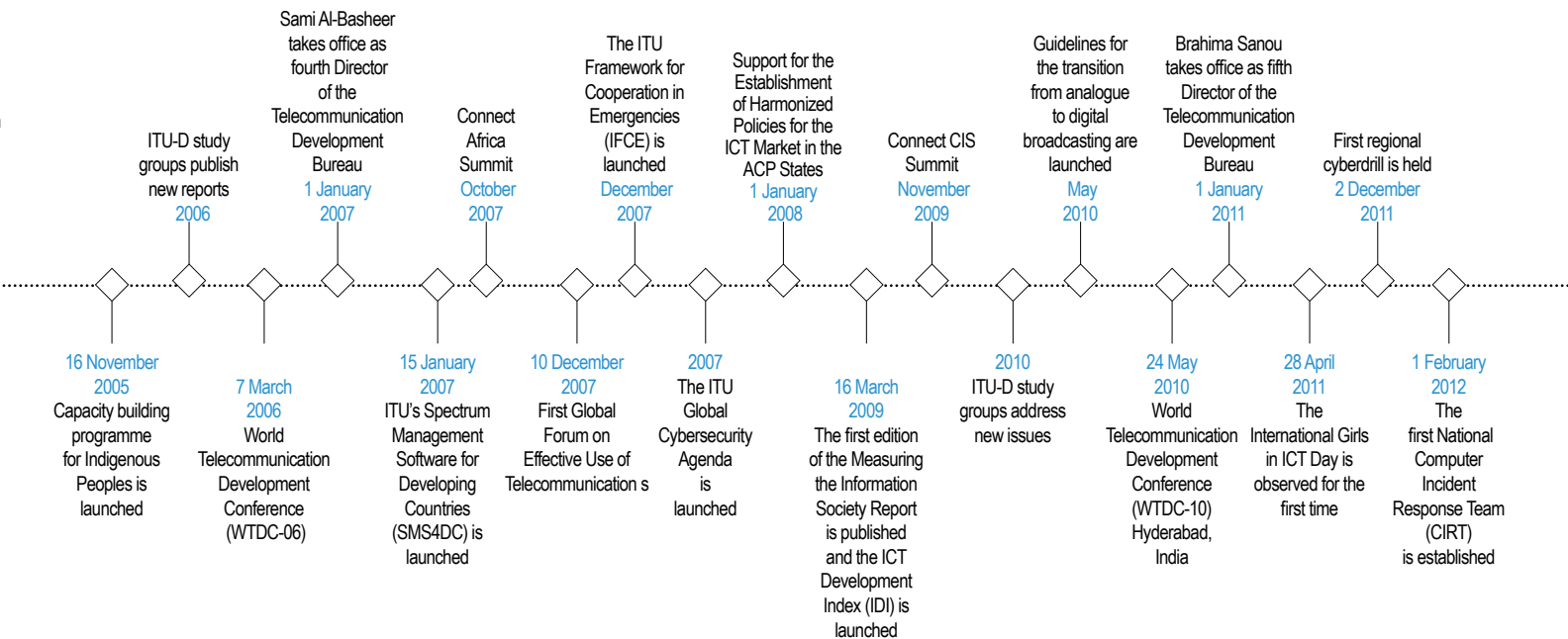
## ITU-D TIMELINE (1992-2017)

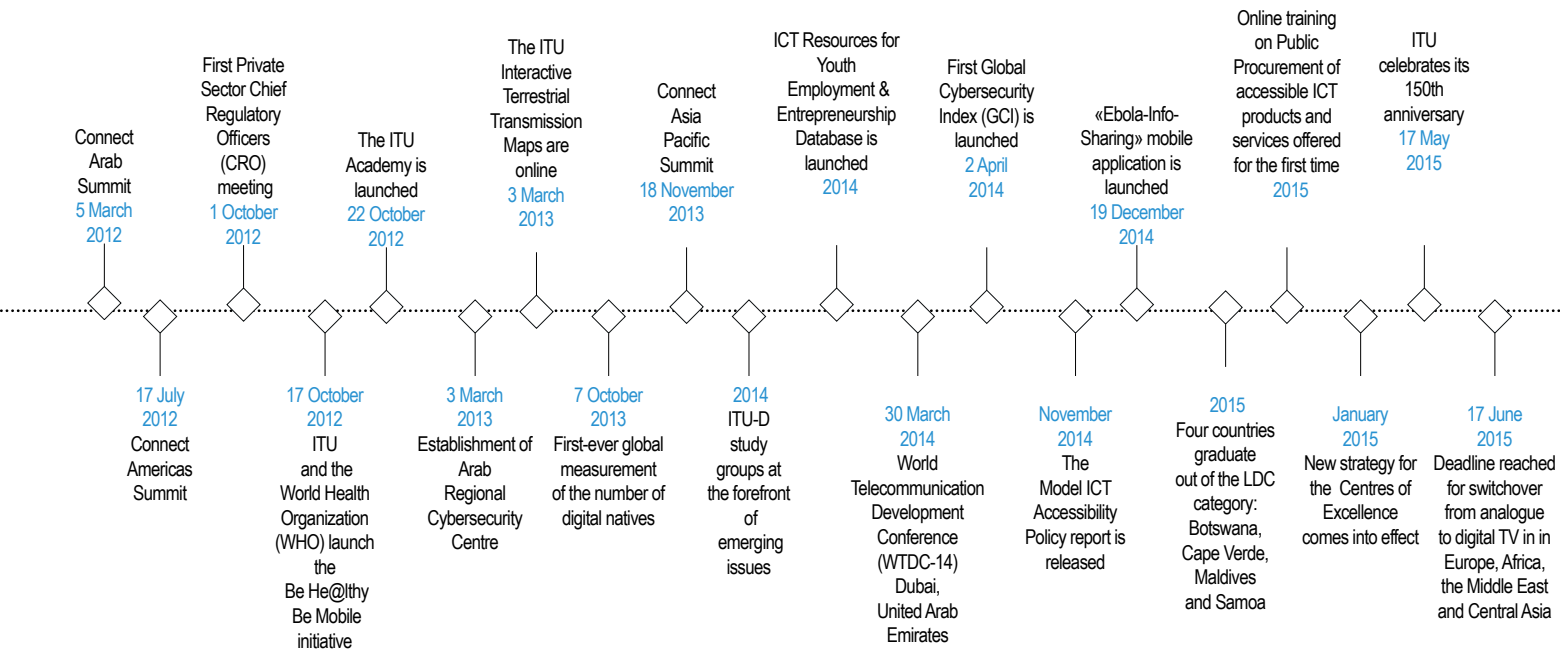
In 2017, the ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

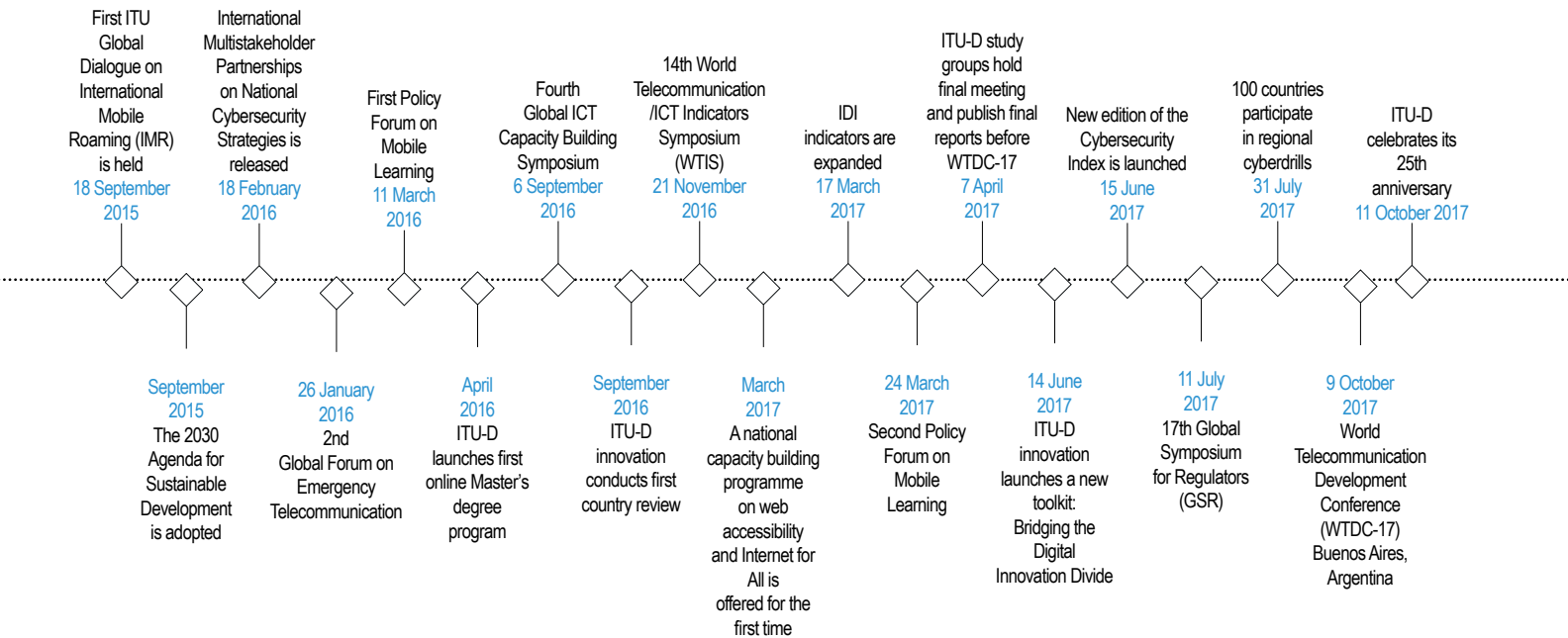
This timeline allows you to browse through its history and milestones.







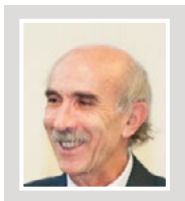




A complete version of the timeline is available at  
[www.itu.int/itu-d25/timeline](http://www.itu.int/itu-d25/timeline)

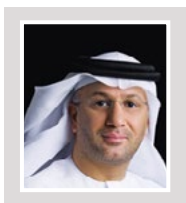
# ITU-D 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TESTIMONIALS

Meet some of the people who have helped change the world



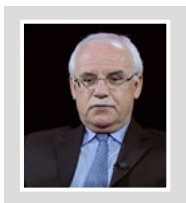
**MOKRANE AKLI,**  
CHAIR ITU-D STUDY  
GROUP 2  
(2010-2014  
STUDY PERIOD)

Over the past 25 years, ITU-D has seen a tremendous growth and has brought substantial support to all its membership. As Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2 during the study period 2010-2014, I can say that ITU-D has created a unique platform for members and experts who come together and generate innovative ideas and solutions for the development of the ICT sector. ICTs play a crucial role across all the Sustainable Development Goals.



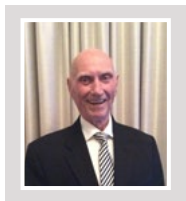
**MOHAMED AL GHANIM**  
CHAIR, WTDC-14

I believe ITU-D is, and will continue to be, an excellent neutral facilitator between governments, private sectors and civil society in implementing programs, projects and initiatives related to ICT development. I call on all stakeholders to strengthen their support to the ITU-D Sector to help facilitate the promotion of affordable and accessible broadband infrastructure.



**CLOVIS BAPTISTA,**  
FORMER ITU COUNCIL  
MEMBER (BRAZIL)

One of the greatest achievements of ITU-D over these 25 years is the delivery of technical support to Member States through the regional offices. I am a witness to this process and the concrete benefits it has brought to ITU-D Members. ITU members should continue to give support to ITU-D under the great spirit of collaboration. Let us build the agenda for the future with a view to continuing promoting social inclusion, economic development based on unrestricted access to ICTs.



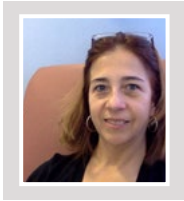
**GRAHAM J DAVEY,**  
FORMER ITU REGIONAL  
DIRECTOR ASIA PACIFIC

I served as the ITU Regional Director for Asia Pacific between 1993 and 1995. This was an exciting period for the telecommunication sector for the entire Asia-Pacific region with countries rapidly expanding their telecommunication infrastructure and liberalization, paving the way for private sector players. These changes required major regulatory and policy changes. Today the Asia Pacific region is undoubtedly a global technology hub. BDT is proud to be associated with this remarkable achievement. The future of the ICT sector is here and now and I am confident ITU-D will continue to guide its members on the integration of ICTs in all aspects of development.



**ARNOLD  
PH. DJIWATAMPU,**  
FIRST BDT DIRECTOR

ITU-D gives each member a unique opportunity to learn from the experience of other members and also from a cross-section of experts in the field of ICT. It is important that members continue to attend activities organized by Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in order to further develop the telecommunication/ICT sector. I would also encourage continued co-operation among members.



**SALMA JALIFE,**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE ITU  
COUNCIL WORKING  
GROUP ON A STABLE  
CONSTITUTION

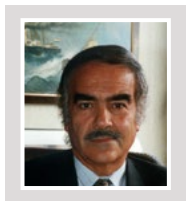
The last 25 years have been of great achievement for ITU-D. It is the Sector that gets the closest to people and societies with programmes ranging from health to education, capacity building and cybersecurity or climate change and telecom emergencies. In my view, ITU-D plays a special role in the following three aspects: first, with children and young people who need to be involved in the growth and development of economic and social sectors everywhere; second, ITU-D has been very helpful in promoting social inclusion. Lastly, ITU-D plays a key role in fostering collaboration with Academia to build better solutions, and encourage innovation and new ideas for the development of telecommunications in our global community.



**PETER KURAKOV,**  
FORMER DEPUTY  
TO THE BDT DIRECTOR

My vision for the future is for ITU-D to expand its presence in the rapidly expanding digital economy. The Sector needs to be at the forefront of the development of new technologies, such as the Internet of Things, and to assist Member States in incorporating these technologies in all aspects of development. These new technologies will particularly help to expand telecommunication/ICT in rural and remote areas. This is an opportunity that cannot be missed.





AHMED LAOUYANE,  
SECOND BDT DIRECTOR

The creation of the ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector, 25 years ago, was a major milestone in the advancement of the information society. ITU-D has come a long way and I am proud of its achievements. The marking of the 25th Anniversary at WTDC-17 will be an occasion for us all to reflect on past achievements of ITU-D and prioritize areas we need to build on. The Anniversary will be an opportunity to discuss solutions for the future and propose innovative ways to spread the benefits of telecommunications/ICTs to all parts of the world. Happy Anniversary ITU-D!



ROXANNE MCELVANE,  
CHAIR, ITU-D STUDY  
GROUP 1  
(2010-2017  
STUDY PERIOD)

ITU-D provides an excellent platform where Member States, Sector Members, Academia, Associates and other stakeholders come together to discuss issues regarding the ICT sector and, in particular, how to bring the benefits of the digital economy to the unconnected around the world. The most valuable asset that ITU-D has is its membership and its people. I have witnessed the Sector grow and become a major contributor to the global dialogue on ICTs. This is a great achievement over the past 25 years.



FATIH MEHMET YURDAL,  
CHAIR,  
WTDC-02

I chaired WTDC-02 whose main focus was the need for countries to reduce the digital divide by rapidly expanding their telecommunication infrastructure. Today this has been achieved but many countries still need expertise on spectrum management which is key to expanding access to telecommunication/ICTs. The Telecommunication Development Sector, through its diverse membership, is well placed to provide the necessary support.



DAVID MELLOR,  
FORMER CHAIR,  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
ADVISORY GROUP  
(TDAG)

I have seen the tremendous contribution ITU-D has made to the development of the ICT sector. Today we have the ITU-Academy which is an excellent platform to promote capacity building in the ICT sector, particularly for developing countries. Looking forward, there is lot of respect for ITU as a leader in the field on telecommunication/ICT. We need to build on this reputation even further.



VLADIMIR MINKIN,  
CHAIR,  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT  
ADVISORY GROUP  
2007-2017

We should be proud of our achievements over the past 25 years. We should continue to use our experience, knowledge and our established links with other ITU Sectors, the General Secretariat, and United Nations Agencies, to develop the field of telecommunication/ICTs to fulfil the WSIS outcomes, implement the Connect 2020 agenda and contribute to the attainment the Sustainable Development Goals.



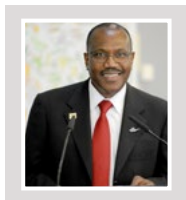
KRASTU MIRSKI,  
FORMER DEPUTY TO THE  
BDT DIRECTOR

Looking ahead, technologies are impacting on our lives in a way that would not have been imagined 25 years ago. ITU-D is indeed at the heart of the global digital transformation and will continue to play a crucial role in guiding Member States on how to deploy these new technologies for socio-economic development.



**BAIYSH NURMATOV,**  
INSTITUTE OF  
ELECTRONICS &  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The work of the ITU-D Sector is at the heart of the rapidly evolving digital economy. Over the past 25 years, ITU-D established itself as a platform where countries, regardless of their economic status, can acquire necessary skills to promote the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector. As ITU-D celebrates 25 years, I can look back with pride at the achievements made this far and look forward to an even more innovative future.



**DR HAMADOUN TOURÉ,**  
THIRD BDT DIRECTOR  
AND ITU  
SECRETARY-GENERAL,  
2007-2014

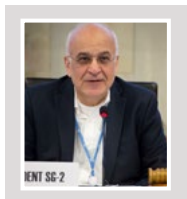
For the past 25 years ITU-D has provided a neutral platform where developing and developed countries can come together to develop policies and share best practices on how to integrate information and communication technologies to promote their socio-economic development. I see ITU-D as one of the most important tools for ITU when it comes to shaping the global agenda for ICTs and especially the use of technologies to attain sustainable development for all. The firm foundation built by the Directors of the Telecommunication Development Bureau and the unwavering support and commitment of BDT staff continues to lead the Sector to greater success and I feel proud and privileged to have been part of this outstanding team.

Bon anniversaire!



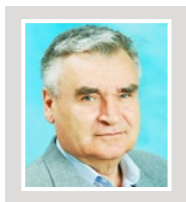
**TARREFE RAS WORK,**  
FORMER POLICY  
ADVISOR TO THE ITU  
SECRETARY GENERAL

As secretary to the committee that authored the “Tomorrow’s ITU: The Challenges of Change” report, I am proud of the achievements that the Union has continued to produce year after year. Today the internet has broadened access to telecommunication/ ICTs on a scale never seen before. This Anniversary is an opportunity for ITU-D to re-evaluate its role in the dynamic ICT sector and set new goals.



**DR AHMAD REZA  
SHARAFAT,**  
CHAIR, ITU-D STUDY  
GROUP 2 (2014-2017  
STUDY PERIOD)

Being chair of ITU-D Study Group 2 has been an extraordinary experience for me. I was fortunate to be surrounded by very knowledgeable and highly co-operative individuals who contributed to the high quality reports produced during the study period. For the past 25 years ITU-D has been bringing together internationally recognized experts to share their knowledge and expertise in the field of ICTs delivering great benefits especially to developing countries. The role of the ITU-D will continue to expand as Member States find ways to harness ICTs for the attainment of sustainable development.



PROF. PETRO  
VOROBIYENKO,  
RECTOR, A.S. POPOV  
ODESSA NATIONAL  
ACADEMY OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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*Video interviews are available at [www.itu.int/itu-d25/testimonials](http://www.itu.int/itu-d25/testimonials)*



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