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23 mars 1998

Today the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) was officially opened at the Mediterranean Conference Centre by Malta's Prime Minister, Dr Alfred Sant. This important global event attracted some 800 participants, representing Member States, Sector Members and other regional and international organizations. Mr Tony M. Mejlac, Chairman of Maltacom plc was the Master of Ceremonies. The Conference elected as its Chairman, Joe Mizzi, Malta's Minister responsible for telecommunications.

The Conference began with a video-showing of Malta's history and culture, produced by Maltacom, the newly-formed public limited company which took over the operational duties and responsibilities of Telemalta Corporation (the former incumbent operator and regulator in the country) last year.

Histoire et culture de Malte à travers une vidéo

Les participants ont découvert l'histoire et la culture riches de Malte à travers une vidéo réalisée par Maltacom, l'entreprise publique dynamique qui s'emploie à offrir des services de télécommunication modernes aux habitants de Malte.

La position stratégique qu'occupe l'archipel maltais (comprenant les îles de Comino et Gozo) au coeur de la Méditerranée a attiré, au fil des âges, une succession de puissances étrangères: Grecs, Phéniciens, Carthaginois, Romains, Byzantins, Arabes, Normands, Aragonais, Chevaliers de l'ordre de Saint-Jean,

Français et Britanniques ont colonisé Malte et utilisé pleinement son potentiel naturel pour en faire un poste avancé et une base commerciale.

Keynote addresses

All keynote speakers addressed the challenges, threats and opportunities which have appeared on the international telecommunication scene since the end of the Cold War.

Sir Donald Maitland set the tone. If you have read the famous report *The Missing Link*, published in 1985, then you must know Sir Donald, "an outstanding public servant", says Dr Pekka Tarjanne. He was the Chairman of the Independent Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development that came up with *The Missing Link*. Thirteen years after the Independent Commission submitted its Report, is the link still missing? Has the gap the members of the Commission found unacceptable been narrowed?

"The answer must be that, while there has indeed been some narrowing of the gap at least in basic services, disparities persist, not only between industrialized and developing countries, but also within countries - and within regions - between urban and rural areas", Sir Donald said. But there is an additional problem: a new gap between the 'information-rich' and the 'information-poor' societies is emerging as a result of the advance of the information society and more recently, the expansion of the Internet. Sir Donald expressed the hope that the ITU would, in its wisdom, adopt measures which are needed to clear the way ahead.

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Mr Ahmed Laouyane, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), thanked the Maltese authorities for their kind invitation to host this important event and the efforts they have made to ensure that the Conference is successful. He highlighted the activities and achievements of the Telecommunication Development Sector since the Buenos Aires Conference in March 1994.

He said that several trends had since influenced the evolution of the telecommunication sector: regulatory reform, the shift toward an information society, competition on international routes and the erosion of the international accounting rate system, the explosive growth of the Internet, and the emergence of global mobile personal communications by satellite (GMPCS) since the successful completion of the first ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum on this topic.

In this context he referred to the conclusions of the recent second World Telecommunication Policy Forum on *trade in telecommunication services*, adding that the three Opinions approved by the Forum on 18 March should help countries move forward together in dealing with the challenges of the new era of restructuring and liberalization. He underlined the need to break down the last barriers to universal access so that all humanity can enjoy the benefits of the new technology. This access and ways to achieve it form the theme of the 1998 edition of the ITU's World Telecommunication Development Report, which was unveiled on Sunday 22 March by the Secretary-General at a Press Conference. He concluded that "as developing countries begin to navigate the uncharted waters of the new millennium, what they really need is a *Malta Action Plan*."

Dr Pekka Tarjanne, ITU's Secretary-General, commended Malta for showing the world the power of telecommunications. "With will, imagination, enterprise and, intelligence small nations can become world telecommunications leaders, as you have done," said the Secretary-General. He added that the real challenge which the Conference faced was one of projecting a future "which is not simply the sum of the trends that have transformed telecommunications to an even higher level of development - but a future which adds human value to these trends - a future which once again transforms how the world views the telecommunications industry - and how the telecommunications industry views the world". Dr Tarjanne who never runs short of appropriate and inspirational acronyms for major conferences of the Union has offered a new slogan to the Valletta Conference:

Valletta's

Aspirations:

Long	Meaning
Live	Affordable
Effective	Links
Telecommunications	To
Technology	All
Applications	

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, **Dr Vladimir Petrovsky**, delivered a message from the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. He praised Dr Tarjanne for his initiative to make the right to communicate a fundamental human right in the global information society of the 21st century.

"You have come here today as leaders who will determine the shape of telecommunications industry in the next century; who will explore ways to harness your knowledge to promote further development. But you also represent a wide range of regions and cultures. At this event, you will open channels of closer collaboration between those regions and cultures; in so doing, you will promote greater understanding, cooperation and tolerance among your communities, and peace among nations", Dr Petrovsky declared.

The Prime Minister of Malta said that his country had developed action-oriented strategies that would be of substantial benefit to all of humanity in the next century. He stressed that ITU had a unique role to play in the coming years, particularly in giving advice to policy-makers on the options available to tailor their policies and regulatory structures to fit each country's specific requirements. "I am convinced that your concerted endeavours during these coming days will be translated into meaningful and innovative measures that will have a lasting and indelible impact on the lives of our citizens as we together embark on an interesting and challenging journey into the 21st century", the Prime Minister concluded.

Structure of the Conference

Chair:

Mr Joe Mizzi (Malta)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr Ezan Akele (Côte d'Ivoire)

Dr Abdul Monem Youssef (Lebanon)

Mr Zhou Dequiang (China)

Mr Ralph Everett (United States)

Mr Valery Timofeev
(Russian Federation)

Committee A

Chair:

Mr Alberto Gabrielli (Argentina)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr Emamgholi Behdad (Iran)

Mr Pape Gorgui Touré (Senegal)

Secretary:

Mr Honoré Vignon

Committee B

Chair:

Mr Ridha Guellouz (Tunisia)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr Wyn Lucas (United Kingdom)

Mr Toru Arizono (Japan)

Secretary:

Mr Peter Kurakov

Budget Committee

Chair:

Mr Ulrich Mohr (Germany)

Vice-Chair:

Mr Krastu Mirski (Bulgaria)

Secretary:

Mr Abdelkhalek Tazi-Riffi

Editorial Committee

Chair:

Mr Lucien Bourgeat (France)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr Malcolm Johnson (United Kingdom)

Mr Rubio Carreton (Spain)

Secretary:

Mr Michael Minges

Working Group on Least Developed Countries (LDC)

Chair:

Mr Tiemoko Maiga (Mali)

Rapporteur:

Mr Abdul Chowdhury (Bangladesh)

Secretary:

Mr Joseph Elotu

Working Group on Valletta Action Plan

Chair:

Mr Nabil Kisrawi (Syria)

Rapporteur:

Mr Roderick Sanatan
(Caribbean Telecommunications Union,
CTU)

Secretary:

Mr Petko Kantchev

Working Group on the private sector

Chair:

Mr Ron Davidson (Final Analysis)

Rapporteur:

Mr Dag Norrby (Telia)

Secretary:

Mrs Allyn Enderlyn

Secrétariat de la conférence

Secrétaire de la Conférence:

M. Pekka Tarjanne

Secrétaire exécutif:

M. Hans Pieterse

Secrétaire administratif:

Mme Hanne T. Laugesen

Séance plénière et Commission de Direction:

M. Hans Pieterse

The afternoon Plenary heard several statements from Ministers and other dignitaries from various countries and institutions. More statements are also scheduled for Tuesday 24 March.

The Valletta Conference is expected to come up with a Plan of Action and to set an agenda and guidelines for the development of telecommunications globally in the next four-year cycle.

Social highlight: The Honourable Alfred Sant, Malta's Prime Minister, gave a reception at the *Casino Maltese* on Monday evening.

Sunday highlights

- The 1998 edition of the **World Telecommunication Development Report, Universal Access, World Indicators** was launched by the Secretary-General during a Press Conference organized by Francine Lambert. Messrs Tarjanne, Laouyane and Michael Mingos, the author of the Report addressed a group of international journalists. Dr Henry Chasia, ITU Deputy Secretary-General was also present.
- The discussion on Gender Issues also got under way with Pat Faccin as facilitator.



24 mars 1998

Day 2 of the Conference

Trends, strategies, and the BAAP

On Tuesday morning the Conference continued its Strategic session on *Telecommunications development in the world: Trends and Strategies*. Several statements were heard from Ministers, chief executive officers of private companies, and from representatives of international and regional organizations. On the whole, the statements indicate the need to work together in true partnership to remove the existing inequalities in access to basic telecommunications and information services.

Also high on the agenda were: the Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAAP), the report on the Regional Telecommunication Development Conferences (the Abidjan Conference for Africa and the Beirut Conference for the Arab States) the report on the implementation of the 12 BAAP programmes, and the operational Plan of the BDT covering the period 1994-1998. These reports were presented by the Director of the BDT, Ahmed Laouyane, Hans Pieterse and Peter Kurakov.

Another important highlight was the inauguration of the telemedicine link between the islands of Malta and Gozo. Dr Michael Farrugia, Minister of Health, Care of the Elderly and Family Affairs in the Republic of Malta, inaugurated the

link between St Luke's Hospital in Malta and the General Hospital in the sister island of Gozo. Images were relayed live by Maltacom plc from St Luke's Hospital to the Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) during a real-time telemedicine session with Gozo General Hospital. Mr Laouyane, who witnessed the inauguration said that telemedicine was a "multidisciplinary undertaking, requiring the active participation of different players from both the telecommunication and health care sectors". The Malta/Gozo link is one of many projects initiated by the BDT in recent times. As with every telemedicine project of the BDT, Leonid Androuchko helped arrange for this demonstration at the MCC.

Plan d'action de Buenos Aires

Plusieurs rapports et documents ont été présentés par le BDT ainsi que par certaines administrations membres de l'UIT. En particulier, un rapport détaillé a été présenté sur le déroulement et les résultats des 12 programmes du Plan d'action de Buenos Aires (PABA). Ces programmes portent, en général, sur:

- les politiques, stratégies et financement
- la gestion et développement des ressources humaines
- le guide pour l'élaboration des plans de développement à orientation commerciale
- le développement des services de radiocommunication maritime
- la planification des réseaux assistée par ordinateur

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- la gestion des fréquences
- l'amélioration de la maintenance
- les systèmes radiotéléphoniques mobiles cellulaires
- le développement rural intégré
- les infrastructures de radiodiffusion
- les services d'information, et
- le développement de la télématique et des réseaux informatiques

Plusieurs pays ont pris la parole pour féliciter le BDT pour les efforts consacrés aux pays en voie de développement durant la période 1994-1998. L'Ethiopie a exprimé le souhait de voir l'assistance du BDT diriger vers d'autres projets que les bourses habituelles octroyées aux pays les moins avancés (PMA) pour participer aux réunions et séminaires de l'UIT. Il faudra peut-être envisager un programme d'assistance spéciale pour ces pays dans le cycle quadriennal prochain. Le Bénin a demandé l'assistance en matière de réglementation, formation et planification de son réseau national. Les Philippines ont demandé que le BDT continue à octroyer des bourses de participation aux réunions de l'UIT, vu la crise financière que connaît l'Asie à l'heure actuelle.

La discussion se poursuivra.

To establish or not to establish a Committee C: That has been a key question

Since the opening of the Conference, there has been much discussion in the Plenary on whether or not to set up a third committee on financing and economic issues. The negotiations which started on Monday evening among several delegations have finally borne fruit. In a Steering Committee (made up of the Chair and all the Vice-chairs of the Conference, the Chairs and Vice-chairs of the Committees of the Conference, and of the Working

groups of the Plenary as well as members of the ITU Secretariat) that lasted nearly two hours, a compromise was reached to divide Committee A into two sub-committees. Sub-committee A1 will deal with national structures, sector reform and related issues, while Sub-committee A2 will deal with financing and strategic partnerships, including related issues. Both sub-committees will operate under the umbrella of Committee A.

With this new 'structural' change, we are likely to see many night sessions, starting from Wednesday 25 March.

Bon courage à tous!



25 mars 1998

Day 3

of the Conference

WorldTel and ITU sign cooperation agreement

A cooperation agreement was signed on Wednesday morning between the ITU and WorldTel Ltd — the London-based telecommunication development company with an office in Geneva (in the same building as the TELECOM Secretariat). WorldTel is, in fact, the brain child of the ITU, created with the prime objective of restructuring and funding telecommunication infrastructure projects in emerging markets. As such, the company focuses on projects that are deemed commercially viable in poorer or rural areas with particularly weak communications infrastructure.

Signing the agreement on behalf of the ITU, Ahmed Laouyane, Director of the BDT said: "It is our policy to encourage the private sector to team up with developing countries as true partners in development. With the know-how of the BDT and the expertise of WorldTel in financing large-scale projects, our hope is that developing countries will be able to widen their options for improving access to telecommunication to their people".

Sam Pitroda, Chairman of WorldTel said that his company was "pleased to team up with the development arm of the ITU. We look forward to associating the BDT

in the projects related to new funds that we are launching shortly".

Under the terms of the agreement, the partners will establish annual working programmes in which the ITU will have the full technical responsibility to identify and define projects. WorldTel, for its part, will have the responsibility for taking decisions on structuring and investments on selected projects.

With this agreement now signed, the two partners will cooperate and coordinate their efforts — on the basis of commercial arrangements — in a bid to narrow the communications gap.

How the gender issue got on the agenda

The role of women in society has been a major issue in international conferences in recent years. It was highlighted at the Beijing Conference of 1995, it also became a major issue at the Global Knowledge Conference (Toronto, June 1997). With gender issues now on the global development agenda, the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB) felt it was difficult not to raise the question of participation of women in telecommunication development at the Valletta Conference. At its eighth meeting in October 1997 TDAB decided that a special session on gender issues should be organized on this occasion.

The first session was held on Sunday 22 March (see *Valletta News* of 23 March, page 5). This session elected Mrs Maluki (Kenya) as its Chair and five vice-chairs from different regions of the world. Pat Faccin of the BDT is the

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Secretary of the group and will certainly have interesting stories for you.

At its second session held on Wednesday afternoon, several presentations were heard from Niger, India, Tanzania, France Telecom and Suriname. The presentations highlighted the reasons why gender should be considered explicitly in the formulation of telecommunication development policies. Some special attention was given to the problems of women in developing countries where telecommunications advancement occurs in urban rather than in rural areas. While urban areas in these countries tend to have a more developed infrastructure, still most of a nation's population resides in rural areas.

A top priority will be to educate women, particularly in the developing countries, through radio and television broadcasting, as well as through other programmes. In particular, special Units for the training of women should be established at the centres of Excellence which the ITU plans to set up in its regions, using TELECOM surplus funds as seed money. There have also been suggestions to include gender issues in the Union's Strategic Plan so that they are addressed broadly, and not solely as a matter for the BDT. The gender debate should be broadened to include other disadvantaged groups of society. A draft resolution for future action will be prepared for the attention of the Conference.

Committee A

Committee A had a difficult start as a result of the decision taken on Tuesday to divide this Committee into two sub-committees (see *Valletta News*, 24 March, page 2). The Committee spent nearly an hour discussing whether or not it should adopt the agenda for its first meeting. What were the terms of reference of the newly created sub-

committees? In the end, this session became the first meeting of Sub-Committee A2.

On a more positive note, the Committee noted with great satisfaction the Report on *Telecommunication regulation: General trends worldwide*, prepared and presented by Doreen Bogdan-Martin of the BDT.

The Committee then examined proposed new Questions for the next study period. Already, some delegations have expressed the need to reduce the number of Questions in view of limited resources.

Budget control Committee

Some concern has been raised about the amount of documentation being produced. If this is not limited, there may be over-expenditure.

Working Group of the Plenary on the Valletta Action Plan

This group held its first session today to review proposals on working methods for the Telecommunication Development Sector. It also heard several presentations relevant to the Sector's Strategic Plan and what will constitute the Valletta Action Plan.

Working Group of the Plenary on LDCs

The question of the least developed countries (LDC) is an important challenge for this Conference. The Working Group of the Plenary on LDCs held its first meeting (a night session) on Wednesday to discuss the need for special actions for LDCs in the 1999-2003 period.



26 mars 1998

Day 4 of the Conference

Le temps n'est vraiment pas avec nous, mais le travail avance ...

Commission B: Développement des réseaux

Cette commission a démarré ses travaux jeudi matin. Elle a pour mission de traiter les questions concernant les nouvelles technologies et le développement des réseaux, y compris les grands projets et les grandes initiatives mondiales et régionales: Africa ONE, les communications personnelles mobiles par satellite (GMPCS), SPACECOM, télécommunications et protection de l'environnement, etc.

La commission s'est tout de suite penchée sur l'évolution de la mise en oeuvre des Résolutions et Recommandations de la première Conférence mondiale de développement de Buenos Aires (1994). Elle a ensuite examiné les activités de la Commission d'études 2 (chargée du développement, de l'harmonisation, de la gestion et de la maintenance des réseaux et des services de télécommunication) et approuvé deux Recommandations qui seront soumises à la Plénière pour adoption.

Environ 40 propositions de nouvelles questions ont été soumises aux commissions A et B pour la période d'études 1998-2001. Un des enjeux de la conférence sera de déterminer si les moyens mis à la disposition du Secteur de l'UIT pour le Développement (UIT-D) suffiront à traiter l'ensemble de ces questions. La Commission B parle d'ores et déjà d'une réduction.

Sub-Committee A2: financing, economics and partnership

The subcommittee had on its agenda the Report of the Second Policy Forum on *Trade in Telecommunication Services*. The report highlights the main conclusions of the Forum, in particular, the three Opinions which deal with:

- The implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) with respect to basic telecommunication services for the ITU membership (**Opinion A**).
- the implications of the GATS with respect to basic telecommunications for developing countries and cooperative actions between ITU and Member States and Sector Members to facilitate adaptation to the new telecommunication environment (**Opinion B**).
- the evolution of the international telecommunication environment, particularly the accounting and settlement system (**Opinion C**).

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Don MacLean explained to the delegates that the Report of the Chairman of the Policy Forum, which contains these Opinions, will be circulated to the Forum participants for editorial comment. As for the nine country case studies (the Bahamas, Colombia, India, Lesotho, Mauritania, Samoa, Senegal, Sri Lanka, and Uganda), commissioned specially for the Forum, further analysis will be required between April and June 1998.

These case studies speak to the changing international telecommunication environment and were carried out in keeping with Decision 475 of the 1997 ITU Council. Their validation will be important for ITU-T Study Group 3, which will be meeting in June this year to review the reform of the accounting rate system. The BDT and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) are expected to work very closely together to implement the Opinions of the Policy Forum.

In particular, Opinions B and C invite the Director of the BDT to assist in mitigating the negative effects on developing countries of: the World Trade Organization's agreement on basic telecommunication services, and the transition to cost-orientated settlement rates. An in-depth debate is expected to take place in order to define the future activities of the ITU-D in these domains.

In the fields of **financing, economics, and partnerships**, several presentations were heard from: Brazil, the WorldTel, France Telecom, the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, Tunisia, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the BDT. From the BDT side, Allyn Enderlyn introduced a key report on: *Financial institutions offering resources for telecommunication projects and technical assistance in developing countries*. She also highlighted the results of the telecommunication trade and finance colloquia organized during 1996-1998 in Africa, the Arab States,

Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Apart from the instances of spectacular progress achieved here and there, the vast majority of developing countries have only derived limited benefits (more often owing to a lack of funding) from the new technologies available today. The real debate will begin on Friday 27 March on new strategies of funding telecommunication development projects!

Committees A and B are expected to submit to the Plenary several things. Notable among them will be the Recommendations from the ITU-D Study Groups for the period 1994-1998, Programmes and new Questions for the next four-year study period, and Resolutions.

Working Group of the Plenary on the Valletta Action Plan (VAP)

This group held another session today and has defined the structure for the VAP: a chapter on the **Valletta Declaration**, a chapter on **Study Groups**, a chapter on **Programmes...**

La Commission de rédaction est encore au "chômage". Son Président M. Lucien Bourgeat (France) a demandé, lors de la Commission de direction jeudi soir, que les commissions et groupes de travail commencent à soumettre les textes approuvés. Cette commission a pour mandat d'examiner tous les textes établis par les autres commissions, en y apportant les précisions nécessaires sans modifier leur sens. Elle les transmettra ensuite à la plénière, laquelle les approuvera ou les renverra à la commission compétente pour complément d'examen.

Bon week-end à tous!



27 et 28 mars 1998

Days 5 and 6 of the Conference

Weekend review

Committee B: Network development

The BDT was commended for its work in the GMPCS (global mobile personal communications by satellite) arena. Opinion 5 of the first World Telecommunication Policy Forum invited the Director of the BDT to establish a Group of Experts to advise developing countries on the technical, regulatory, economic and operational issues associated with the introduction of GMPCS services. In this context, the Group of Experts prepared a checklist of factors which these countries may take into account when introducing GMPCS services.

The Africa ONE project: a submarine fibre-optic ring around the African continent has also been recognized as an important step in building a common network that will give Africa a place in the information society. Africa ONE is expected to be integrated with existing or planned terrestrial and satellite systems, as well as other emerging submarine cables, including *Project Oxygen* (see *ITU News No. 8/97*, page 57, and *No. 2/98*, pages 46 and 47). Project Oxygen will be based on a sophisticated network of undersea and

overland cables with 262 landing points in 175 countries and locations, and linking every continent, except Antarctica. This project is estimated to cost USD 14 billion.

Africa ONE is estimated to cost USD 1.6 billion. As at 11 December 1997, 27 African countries and four international operators had signed the Memorandum of Understanding : an indispensable landmark in moving the project forward.

Tampere Conference

Participants noted with appreciation the invitation by the Government of Finland to all Member States of the United Nations and the ITU to the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (ICET-98). This Conference will be held in Tampere from 16 to 18 June 1998. Sector Members of the ITU are invited to participate as observers. Mohamed Harbi, Special Adviser to the ITU Secretary-General, explained to the participants that the main item on the agenda will be the adoption of the *Convention on the provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations*. It is worthwhile to recall that the 1997 World Radiocommunication Conference passed Resolution 644, recognizing the plans under way to hold this important Conference. Barbados, Canada, the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago have submitted a draft resolution on this topic to the Conference (Document 178) for action.

Distribution générale

Hello and welcome to the Internet Broadcasting Service (IBS)

On Friday evening, Mr Goelzer, Chief of the IS Department unveiled the new ITU Internet Broadcasting Service to the Valletta Conference. The IBS uses client/server software to distribute audio and video streams over the ITU intranet and the public Internet and was used, for the first time, during the Second World Telecommunication Policy Forum. It allows you to gain access to an event's proceedings (audio and/or video : the choice is yours !) in real-time or on demand. This now makes it feasible to access video and audio over the Internet, using a PC equipped with a sound card. Some of you are already using this wonderful new tool.

Canada to participate in African centres of excellence

The Canadian delegation announced on Saturday afternoon that it would collaborate in the development of the first of the African centres of excellence to address education and research in rural connectivity and universal access. The proposed collaboration would involve the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC), the ITU and the African Advanced Level of Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) located in Nairobi (Kenya). In particular, the collaboration will see the creation of a centre of excellence in rural connectivity at AFRALTI.

The education programme is expected to raise the awareness of senior executives, managers, and technical specialists to the issues, experiences and the best practices associated with connectivity and African rural communities.

CITEL (Inter-American Telecommunications Commission) Member States have also expressed great interest in developing further the centre of excellence concept for the benefit of the Americas region and to

secure the resources allocated by the ITU for that project. The 1998 CITEL Assembly adopted a resolution which has been submitted to the Conference as a common proposal for action.

Le facteur humain dans les télécommunications du XXI^e siècle

L'Institut des cadres supérieurs en gestion des télécommunications du Canada (TEMIC), qui a été créé en 1986 pour donner suites aux recommandations du Rapport de la Commission Maitland intitulé *Le Chaînon manquant*, a été amené, dans le cadre de ses programmes, à prendre conscience de certaines préoccupations des pays en développement. Ces préoccupations sont liées, entre autres, à la réforme du secteur des télécommunications, à la nécessité de promouvoir le change-ment, à l'incidence générale de la réforme sur la politique de l'emploi et à la nécessité d'une prise de conscience accrue du rôle que jouent les télécommunications pour assurer la transition vers la fameuse Société de l'information. La proposition du TEMIC d'envisager la création d'un comité consultatif sur le développement des ressources humaines relatif aux nouvelles technologies, aux nouveaux services et aux questions connexes a été prise au sérieux par la Commission B, qui a créé un groupe de rédaction ce samedi 28 mars afin de présenter une proposition concrète.

Decisions from Committee B

Between 26 and 27 March, Committee B discussed and adopted resolutions on:

- Non-discriminatory access to modern telecommunication facilities and services
- the role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment

- telecommunications in rural, isolated and poorly served areas
- telecommunication resources for disaster mitigation and relief operations
- telemedicine

These draft resolutions will now be submitted to the plenary for consideration and approval.

Editorial Committee

This Committee held its first meeting on Saturday 28 March and refined five Recommendations from Study Group 1. It also reviewed **Resolution PLEN-1** on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations. These texts will now be submitted to the Plenary for approval:

- Recommendation COM A-A: Telecommunication policies. This Recommendation is based on Question 2/1 (Telecommunication policies and their repercussions at the level of institutional, regulatory and operational aspects of services).
- COM A-B: The impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications. This Recommendation is based on Question 3/1 which carries the same title.
- COM A-C: Tariff policies and methods of determining costs
- COM A-D: Policies and ways for financing telecommunication infrastructure in developing countries. COM A-C and COM A-D are based on Question 4/1 (Policies and ways for financing telecommunication infrastructure in developing countries).

- COM A-E: Industrialization and transfer of technology. This Recommendation is based on Question 5/1 which carries the same title.

Gender issues

As reported in *Valletta News* of 25 March, the Special Session on gender issues has come up with a draft resolution on *gender and telecommunication policy in developing countries*. A Task Force on gender issues is also envisaged under this resolution to undertake activities that will ensure that the benefits of telecommunications in developing countries and the emerging Information Society are extended to all men and women on a fair and equitable basis.

The draft resolution follows three meetings of the Special Session with Canada, Ghana, India, Kenya, Niger, Singapore, South Africa and the United States playing the lead role. The proposed resolution takes into account the responsibility of the ITU-D to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development, the Beijing Declaration - United Nations Fourth Conference of Women (1995) - which seeks to ensure that women have equal access to information and communication as a way of promoting the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. The resolution recognizes that allowing women and other groups of society, which have been traditionally disadvantaged, to participate fully in policy and decision-making and to gain access to telecommunication services and infrastructure will enable them to make more effective contributions to the much-talked about Global Information Society.

In particular, the draft resolution requests the Director of the BDT to:

- propose to the ITU Council the inclusion of a gender perspective in the ITU Strategic Plan
- transmit the resolution (if approved) to the Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference (12 October to 6 November 1998)
- report the results and progress of the Task Force to the next WTDC.

These proposals will be submitted to the Plenary on Monday 30 March. If approved, the results of the Special Sessions on Gender Issues will be incorporated into the **Valletta Action Plan**.

Sub-Committee A2: financing, economics and partnership

What will be the BDT's role in implementing some of the Opinions of the Second Policy Forum (see *Valletta News* of 26 March, Page 1)? The real debate on this issue began on Saturday morning when the French and Spanish versions of Document 82 and its Annex 4 were available. Document 82 contains the results of the Policy Forum, while Annex 4 outlines the activities envisaged by the BDT for follow-up and implementation of Opinions adopted at this Forum. Two schools of thought emerged from the debate: one supporting the activities outlined in that annex and the other convinced that this would lead to a duplication of effort within the ITU.

In particular, the annex underlines the role and duty of the BDT to help developing countries participate in, and submit contributions to the work of Study Group 3 of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). This Study Group is responsible for *Tariff and accounting principles including related telecommunications, economic and policy issues*. One delegate was called

to order when he said that the focus group had failed to deliver. But surely, the "focus group advocated in Opinion C of the Policy Forum has not even been set up. Some delegations said that the T-Sector had only looked at the accounting rate system from their perspective, and feared that once again these issues could elude them in a focus group. A draft resolution has been prepared in a drafting group led by Mr Bernard Rouxville (France) on telecommunication financing and trade. This draft along with annex 4 will be revised over the weekend and submitted to the sub-committee on Monday 30 March.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, le document 137 du Liban relatif aux *impacts économiques, financiers et sociaux de la libéralisation des activités du secteur des télécommunications dans les pays en développement*, a suscité un grand débat. D'abord, le texte n'existe qu'en français. Donc, il n'était pas question de le discuter! Selon d'autres délégations le document contient des propositions qu'elles auront du mal à accepter. Ce document stipule, entre autres, que les opérateurs privés à vocation mondiale doivent participer financièrement, dans tous les pays en développement et à l'exclusion de tout autre pays, à la réalisation efficace de cette transition vers une totale libéralisation des télécommunications dans ce pays, en contribuant à la création d'un Fonds privé pour le développement des télécommunications (FPDT). Ce fonds serait placé sous le contrôle du BDT et sous l'autorité légale de l'UIT.

- Pour éviter toute discrimination sur ce plan, il conviendrait que le BDT procède à un recensement officiel de ces opérateurs en exigeant de leur part une souscription au FPDT sur un compte spécial créé pour recevoir les sommes correspondantes à ces souscriptions.

- Le BDT créera une commission spéciale pour allouer ces fonds aux administrations des pays en développement qui s'engagent sincèrement et résolument dans la libéralisation des activités de télécommunications.
- Tout opérateur à vocation mondiale qui refuserait de souscrire à ce fonds pourrait être sanctionné, notamment par une suspension aux travaux de l'UIT qui lui serait signifiée, et par une fermeture des marchés des pays en développement à l'ensemble des sociétés ou filiales de son Groupe.

Le temps presse! Est-ce que la Conférence trouvera le temps de débattre de ces questions qui semblent préoccuper un grand nombre des administrations des pays en développement présentes à La Valette?

Junior Summit '98

Giving children a voice through technology

The world has more than 1 billion children between the ages of 10 and 16. Have you ever thought that the future rests on the shoulders of these children? Be that as it may, they are not being consulted about the use and design of the technologies that will determine how they work, play and communicate tomorrow. Junior Summit'98 aims to change that. Professor Justine Cassell, Director of Junior Summit '98, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Laboratory, explained that the Summit will bring together children from all corners of the world with the goal to "identify and address such issues as child rights, telecommu-

nication access, individual privacy, personal health, environmental responsibility and world peace through the eyes of those not blinded by the past and destined to live in the future".

To be part of this exciting event, both boys and girls aged between 10 and 16 are invited to submit entries in their native languages and will be accepted on the basis of an essay, piece of music, video, or photo essay that demonstrates:

- their awareness of the state of children in their communities, and in the world
- their ideas on how to improve the world.

Already, the deadline for entries has had to be extended to 30 April 1998 to accommodate the overwhelming response. After this date, 1000 children will be selected and provided with the technology to participate in an on-line forum for three months. The children will then choose delegates to represent them at a week-long Summit scheduled to take place in Cambridge (Massachusetts) in November this year.
Contact: justine@media.mit.edu

Working Groups of the Plenary

Working Group on LDCs

This group met again on Saturday afternoon and has devised a new strategy which seeks to concentrate the Union's efforts on a number of selected LDCs each year. The group has also drafted a resolution on *Special actions for the LDCs*, which, if approved will allow the BDT to pay special attention to suburban and rural telecommunication development with a view to achieving universal access to telecommunication services.

Working Group on the role of the private sector

This group is proposing the establishment of an *Advisory Group of the Private Sector* to deal with issues of particular concern to the private sector on an ongoing basis. It has drafted a resolution that will be presented to the Plenary for action.

This group is making good progress through its four sub-working groups.

Plenary

The plenary on Friday afternoon decided that the Telecommunication Development Sector would maintain its two Studies Groups. It also approved the Sector's working methods.

All the Committees and Working Groups of the Plenary are expected to complete their work by Monday 30 March. Hopefully, the trip to the Island of Gozo (Sunday) will give them a fresh impetus...



30 mars 1998

Day 7 of the Conference

Here in Valletta, 30 March wasn't just another Conference day.

At the morning "Prayer Meeting" (as the 8 a.m. meetings of the Secretariat are called), Dr Pekka Tarjanne set the tone... not with a speech but with a song. It was Sylvia Petter's birthday.

Many happy returns of the day Sylvia!

Committee B: Network development

Committee B completed its mandate today amid cheers for the Chair, Mr Ridha Guellouz (Tunisia), for a job well done. The only outstanding issues which will now be discussed in Plenary are: the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Human Resources Development related to new technology and new services. The proposal to set up an Advisory Committee under the auspices of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) was jointly made by Lebanon, Mali, and Thomson CSF in Document 157. While a broad consensus emerged to set up such a Committee, no agreement could be reached as to the future Committee's terms of reference.

This fourth and last meeting of the Committee endorsed draft resolutions on:

- Implementation of national, regional, inter-regional and global projects
- Applied research and transfer of technology
- Information infrastructure
- public service broadcasting

All in all, Committee B reviewed around 82 documents.

Sub-Committee A2: financing, economics and partnership

An agreement is yet to be reached on the draft resolution on *telecommunication financing and trade* and its annex covering the activities planned by the BDT for follow-up and implementation of the Opinions adopted at the recent Second World Telecommunication Policy Forum.

Despite several attempts to achieve a balanced text satisfactory to all delegations the issue may have to be resolved in Plenary, due to lack of time.

A ruling may also have to be made on Document 137 in Plenary. This document was submitted by Lebanon and addresses *economic, financial and social impact of the liberalization of telecommunication sector activities in the developing countries*. It carries the subtitle, *"Tailor-made liberalization", "Strategic privatization", Imposed privatization"*. Some observations (see Valletta news of 27 and 28 March, pages 4 and 5).

The Lebanese delegation deplored the fact that developing countries were urged to make efforts to participate and even organize major events aimed at improving telecommunications globally. Yet, ironically, they were not allowed to air their views on issues of great concern to them at major conferences such as the Valletta one. This matter will be taken up in the Steering Committee.

Plenary

The Plenary considered and approved the first and second series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee:

First series (see Document 196 for details)

- Recommendation COM A-A: Telecommunication policies. This Recommendation is based on Question 2/1 (Telecommunication policies and their repercussions at the level of institutional, regulatory and operational aspects of services).
- COM A-B: The impact of the introduction and utilization of new technologies on the commercial and regulatory environment of telecommunications. This Recommendation is based on Question 3/1 which carries the same title.

Second series (see Document 203 for details)

- Resolution PLEN-1 on coordination and collaboration with regional organizations.
- COM A-C: Tariff policies and methods of determining costs.
- COM A-D: Policies and ways for financing telecommunication infrastructure in developing countries. COM A-C and COM A-D are based on Question 4/1 (Policies and ways for financing telecommunication infrastructure in developing countries)

- COM A-E: Industrialization and transfer of technology. This Recommendation is based on Question 5/1 which carries the same title.
- TDAB-3 : Establishment of Study Groups and an annex on their terms of reference (see Document 206 for details)
- Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and progress review of conference resolutions (see Document 205 and its *Addendum 1*).

BT to provide PCs worth CHF 115 000 to developing countries

BT has announced that it will provide personal computers and associated software to the value of CHF 115 000 to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDC) to participate in the work of the ITU through electronic means of communication. This announcement follows the adoption, by the Second World Telecommunication Policy Forum, of Opinion C which invites the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) to establish a Focus Group under the auspices of ITU-T Study Group 3, in consultation with the Chairman of that Study Group. Opinion C also invites the Director of the BDT to "respond positively to requests from developing countries for assistance in developing cost-accounting systems for telecommunication services".

Making the announcement, Wyn Lucas (United Kingdom) said that BT was well aware of the problems of LDCs and would, in cooperation with the ITU, make this assistance available as soon as possible to allow these countries to participate in the work of the Focus Group. While the details of the

assistance are yet to be worked out, BT's gesture shows the growing partnership between Sector Members and the LDCs in particular.

Mr Lucas is BT's Manager of International Organizations (dealing in particular with the ITU, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations, better known as CEPT, and the European Telecommunications Network Operators group, better known as ETNO). He is also the Deputy Chairman of ITU-T Study Group 3, with responsibility for the Working Party dealing with the reform of the international accounting regime.

Canada announces partnership with ITU

Canada and the ITU have announced that they will create a strategic partnership to help developing countries gain access to information and knowledge so that they can participate fully in the global information society. The partnership agreement is expected to cover cooperation by Canada with the ITU in pursuing universal access, executive training and capacity-building, joint pilot projects to encourage rural communications and applications in social, education and health services, regional seminars on best practices and promotion of private sector, government and ITU partnerships. The agreement to establish the partnership was announced today by the Honourable Diane Marleau, Canada's Minister for International Cooperation and Minister responsible for *La Francophonie*. The same announcement was made during the Plenary today in Valletta by Tony Zeitoun (Canada), Vice-Chair of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board on rural telecommunications.

"This is a concrete step to start narrowing the gap between rich and poor countries in access to information and knowledge", said Madame Marleau, who is responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which will lead Canada's participation in the partnership. "It is also an expression of Canada's commitment to deliver on the promise of the Global Knowledge 97 Conference, which we co-sponsored with the World Bank in Toronto last June, and where participants agreed on the importance of universal access to information and communication technology".

BDT presents Special ITU Development Initiative

In Plenary today, the BDT announced the recent launch of an exciting new development initiative intended to benefit developing countries, especially in Africa. This initiative has its origin in Resolution 11 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994), according to which "a significant part of any surplus income over expenditure derived from the activities of TELECOM should be used for specific telecommunication development projects, primarily in the least developed countries".

To this end, a total of CHF 17.5 million, representing revenues generated by TELECOM events since 1995, has been earmarked for telecommunication development projects to be implemented in the 1997–2001 period. The projects fall in four general programme areas: human resource development, infrastructure development, application of new technologies, and assistance to countries in special need. Pierre Gagné, Administrator of the Special ITU Development Initiative

Human resource development

All countries need highly trained human resources to facilitate their transition to the new international telecommunication environment. *In order to develop and strengthen the capability to generate the needed expertise in developing countries around the world, the ITU has allocated some CHF 8 million towards the establishment of four Centres of Excellence (two for Africa, one for the Americas, and one for Asia-Pacific).*

In the case of Africa, plans are under way to transform into Centres of Excellence the *Ecole supérieure multinationale des télécommunications* (ESMT) in Dakar, and the African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute (AFRALTI) in Nairobi. The ITU is implementing these projects in partnership with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Under the third series of initiatives, nine pilot projects will be implemented in telemedicine. Four of them are already being implemented in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Mozambique. Assistance to countries in special need.

Some CHF 1.5 million is also earmarked, under the Special Development Initiative, for projects to be undertaken in cooperation with other agencies and bodies, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Somalia and Rwanda as well as the Palestinian Authority. The needs of the countries in the Caribbean and South Pacific regions in terms of emergency standby telecommunication services will also be taken into account.

Publications de l'UIT: un moyen de combler le fossé de l'information

Hier soir, Hamid Radjy, Chef du Département des Services communs, a indiqué avec succès l'importance des publications de l'UIT pour les pays en développement, en particulier pour les pays les moins avancés. Cette présentation a été suivie par une séance enrichissante de questions-réponses.

Working Group of the Plenary on the Valletta Action Plan (VAP)

In a night session today, this group accepted the Valletta Declaration, at least in principle.

There has been much discussion on the Strategic Plan for the Development Sector, but a consensus is emerging. The six Programmes, which will form an integral part of the Valletta Plan of Action have been virtually approved. Programmes 1 (Sector reform, regulation, and legislation), 2 (Technologies and GII development and applications), and 3 (Rural development and universal service), were endorsed with minor changes.

Programmes 4 (Finance and economics) and 5 (Private-sector development and partnerships) have been the subject of much debate.

Programmes 5 and 6 (Human resources development and management) have had to be rewritten, almost entirely, for clarity.

Still on the table:

- All study Questions have virtually been approved but are pending allocation
- A draft resolution on call-back, following a debate today in Plenary based on Document 33 from Syria, which has a chapter on *alternative calling procedures and apportionment between administrations*.
- Heads of delegation will meet on Tuesday evening to propose Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the two Study Groups
- As we go to press, the Working group on the VAP is holding a night session to review its draft Valletta Declaration, Strategic Plan, Valletta Action Plan...Whatever has not been finalized will remain in square brackets
- Draft resolution of the Working Group on the role of the private sector has been submitted to the WG VAP, but will still have to be considered by the Plenary
- The draft resolution on the timely implementation of the GMPSC has to be redrafted.

ITU round table lays foundation for a Basic Telecom Law...

On Saturday evening, participants noted with appreciation the results of the two-day round table held at the ITU headquarters on 12 and 13 March 1998. This meeting, which ended with the adoption of 20 principles that will pave the way for a Basic Telecommunication Law for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, was organized by Mohamed Harbi, Special Adviser to the ITU Secretary-General. The meeting was held in accordance with Resolution 33 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) which calls for assistance and support to that country to rehabilitate its telecommunication network, severely damaged by war. Resolution 33 was being implemented in the spirit of the Dayton Agreement.

The round table had brought together, for the first time, representatives from the two Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The principles adopted fall within the telecommunication Plan of Action initiated within the framework of the activities of ITU's Telecommunication Development Sector in keeping with Resolution 33. This Plan is updated regularly and benefits from the specialized assistance of the other two Sectors of the Union: the Radiocommunication Sector and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), which is responsible for the financing of telecommunication activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has decided to work on the basis of the ITU's Plan of Action.

Based on these principles, a draft Basic Telecommunication Law will be prepared by the EBRD and the ITU and will be submitted to a similar meeting to be held at the ITU headquarters in Geneva towards the end of April 1998.



31 mars 1998

Day 8 of the Conference

Valletta: an enriching experience!

Plenary

Gender issues and LDCs in the limelight

The Conference took several decisions today. Among those taken during the morning Plenary were the resolutions on *gender and telecommunications policy in developing countries* and on the *least developed countries*. In particular, the resolution on gender issues provides for:

- the setting up of a task force
- the incorporation of the results of the Special Sessions on Gender Issues into the Valletta Action Plan
- the integration of a gender perspective in the campaign for a *Universal Right to Communicate*.

The resolution requests the BDT Director to propose to the ITU Council, the inclusion of a gender perspective in the Union's Strategic Plan for 1999-2003. It calls on the Telecommunication Development Sector to "make a commitment to integrate a gender perspective in its policies and work programmes, including human resource development activities, study groups,

seminars, conferences and workshops. The Sector is also expected to support efforts to identify technical and financial resources to carry out the programmes of the task force on gender issues. The resolution also urges Member States, Sector Members, and intergovernmental organizations to "review and, as appropriate, revise their policies and practices to ensure that recruitment, employment, training and advancement of women and men are undertaken on a fair and equitable basis". (See Document 198 for details.)

Cap sur les PMA

Cette conférence s'est penchée sérieusement sur les problèmes rencontrés par les pays les moins avancés (PMA). A travers le Groupe de travail de la plénière sur les PMA, une résolution a été adoptée sur des mesures spéciales en faveur de ces pays, accompagnée d'un programme spécial. La résolution charge le directeur du BDT de mettre pleinement en oeuvre ce programme d'assistance et de consacrer au moins 70 % des fonds du BDT aux priorités indiquées dans le programme spécial en faveur des PMA. Elle demande, par ailleurs, au Directeur de donner la priorité aux PMA dans la mise en oeuvre d'autres programmes d'assistance du BDT destinés aux pays en développement. Une attention particulière devrait être accordée au développement des télécommunications dans les zones rurales et suburbaines en vue de réaliser l'accès universel au service de télécommunication. La résolution appelle les autres Etats Membres ainsi que les Membres des secteurs à créer des partenariats avec

Distribution générale

les PMA, soit directement ou avec l'assistance du BDT, afin d'accroître les investissements consentis dans le secteur des télécommunications et de stimuler la modernisation et l'expansion des réseaux dans ces pays.

More decisions

The Conference also considered and approved, at its morning Plenary, the third, fourth and fifth series of texts submitted by the Editorial Committee:

Third series (see Document 213 for details)

- Recommendation COM A-F: Liberalization and competitive business environment.
- Resolution COM A-1: Resource mobilization and partnership for accelerating telecommunication development.

Fourth series (see Document 223 for details)

- Resolution COM A-2: Collection and dissemination of information.
- New Question COM A-Q1: The role of telecommunications in social and cultural development, including the protection and promotion of indigenous culture and identity.

Fifth series (see Document 228 for details)

- Recommendation COM A-6: Role of telecommunications in economic, social and cultural development of indigenous peoples.
- Resolution COM B-1: Telecom Africa.
- Resolution COM B-2: Role of telecommunication and information technologies in the protection of the environment.
- Resolution COM B-3: Applied research and transfer of technology.
- Recommendation COM B- A: Information infrastructure.

A list of new Questions were also approved for Study Groups 1 and 2 (see Documents 212 and 218).

Another bottom-line ...

...The Youth Network

"Thank you, Mr Chairman.
Good morning ladies and gentlemen.
I want to thank you for a moment of your valuable time. We are concerned about the bottom-line: tariffs, interest rates, budgets, and profits. But here at this Development Conference, we must remember that there is a more basic bottom-line.

We are here working at this conference because we want to build a bright future for generations to come: for our children... for our children's children.

The Youth Network recognises that education is the foundation for building this bright future.

Furthermore, the Youth network recognises that telecommunication plays a fundamental role in elevating education.

Universal access to knowledge for students of all ages is a vital prerequisite for preparing today's young people to be tomorrow's leaders and decisions-makers.

It is the goal of this conference and of The Youth Network to link together every school, rural and urban, and every student, girls and boys, in every country.

It is my hope that you will make The Youth Network part of your bottom-line.

In so doing, you will be supporting universal access, worldwide educational development, and the empowerment of young people around the globe.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

And thank you to the ITU, the BDT, Ms Allyn Enderlyn, and to our host, Malta.
Thank you." — A speech by Brandon Bruce at Tuesday morning's Plenary.

Brandon is 19 years old and is the creator of The Youth Network. For more information about *Empowering young people*, please contact Brandon Bruce at: Tel +1 805-683 3177.
Fax: +1 805 882 1194.
E-mail: brandon@youthnetwork.org.
Internet: www.youthnetwork.org

La plénière tranche

Il reste peu de temps pour les débats. Il faut avancer vers le Plan d'action de La Valette: le VAP comme disent nos amis anglophones.

Ainsi la séance plénière de mardi soir a adopté les recommandations et résolutions suivantes avec quelques modifications:

- **Recommandation COMB-B:** Télémedecine.
- **Résolution COMB-5:** Accès non discriminatoire aux moyens et services modernes de télécommunication.
- **Résolution COMB-6:** Politique de télécommunications dans les zones rurales, isolées et mal desservies.
- **Résolution COMB-7:** Mise en oeuvre de projets nationaux, régionaux, interrégionaux et mondiaux.
- **Résolution COMB-8:** Les ressources de télécommunications pour l'atténuation des effets des catastrophes et pour les opérations de secours en cas de catastrophes.
- **Résolution COM A-3:** Assistance financière pour les programmes de gestion nationale du spectre (Document 237).

Par contre, la Résolution COM B-4 relative au service public de radiodiffusion a été retirée, contrairement aux souhaits de certaines délégations. Vous pouvez consulter le Document 239, pour de plus amples détails sur cette résolution.

The Plenary also approved several draft resolutions at its afternoon session, which will now be refined by the Editorial Committee:

- *Alternative calling procedures on international telecommunication networks and apportionment of revenues in providing international telecommunication services.*
- *Telecommunication financing and trade and its Annex 1 on the activities planned by the BDT for follow-up and implementation of Opinions adopted at the Second World Telecommunication Policy Forum, and as a result of WTDC-98 decisions (see Document 200, Rev.2).*

Comment se porte le budget ?

La commission de contrôle budgétaire a indiqué dans son rapport à la plénière que l'organisation et les moyens d'action mis à la disposition des délégués étaient très satisfaisants. Elle a tenu à exprimer ses remerciements au Gouvernement maltais pour toutes les ressources humaines et matérielles attribuées pour permettre à la conférence de mener à bien ses travaux. La commission a examiné le budget de la Conférence, approuvé par le Conseil de l'Union à sa session de 1997. Il s'agit de 2 143 000 CHF dont:

- 1 175 000 CHF au titre des dépenses directes
- 968 000 CHF au titre du coût de la documentation (y compris la traduction).

Il en ressort que le montant estimé des dépenses de la Conférence est de 2 283 000 CHF, soit un dépassement de 140 000 CHF. Ce dépassement s'explique par l'augmentation du volume de la documentation (dactylographie et reprographie comprises) engendrant ainsi un coût supplémentaire de 303 000 CHF.

Par rapport à la CMDT 94, les dépenses de la Conférence de La Valette sont en augmentation de 246 000 CHF. La commission a estimé qu'il n'était pas possible de déterminer les estimations de dépense du plan d'action de La Valette pour la période 2000-2003 car aucune décision n'a encore été prise au moment de l'établissement du rapport de la commission du contrôle budgétaire.

Still on the table:

- A question mark still hangs on whether or not to set up an Advisory Committee on Human resources Development. The Plenary reviewed a draft resolution and annex containing the terms of reference of such a Committee (prepared by an ad hoc group of Committee B under the chairmanship of Maurice Ghazal, Lebanon). While some delegations supported the underlying principle of the proposal, they still fear that this would mean more expenses for the Union. Document 230, which contains the proposal, will be revised.
- Heads of delegation met on Tuesday evening and will be proposing the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for the two Study Groups
- Valletta Declaration, Strategic Plan, Valletta Action Plan
- Draft **Resolution GTPLEN-PS-1** from the Working Group on the role of the private sector was the subject of much debate in today's Plenary. Some delegations consider this draft resolution unconstitutional and have asked that it be redrafted (see Document 238).
- The draft resolution on the timely implementation of the GMPCS .
- Future membership and functions of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB). A drafting group under the leadership of TDAB's Chairman, Sami Al-Basheer

(Saudi Arabia) is expected to come up with a solution in the final hours of the Conference.

Le Document 137 (*Valletta News* du 27 et 28 mars pages 4 et 5, et du 30 mars, pages 1 et 2) a été modifié et soumis à la plénière comme projet de résolution (voir document 222) sur *la méthodologie applicable par les administrations des pays en développement au processus de libéralisation des activités de télécommunications, participation du secteur privé et définition des ressources propres à assurer le financement de ce processus*. Après un long débat, il a été demandé au BDT d'étudier la question en vue d'une action future.

Call for authors

Regency Corporation Ltd. — a public affairs organization working with the United Nations and its agencies — has announced that it is producing with the ITU, a 250-page publication entitled *Action Telecom - a foundation for development* for use in the developing countries. This announcement follows Monday evening's presentation entitled *ITU publications: A bridge to the information gap* (see *Valletta News* of 30 March, page 4). The presentation was made by Hamid Radjy, Chief of the ITU Common Services Department in association with Richard Kyle, Managing Director of Regency.

The purpose of *Action Telecom* is to promote a greater understanding of the benefits of telecoms, particularly amongst those who would not normally be addressed about telecom issues and its various applications. In doing so, the publication aims to encourage greater communication between government ministries, regional and municipal authorities, NGOs and representative groups.

Copies of *Action Telecom* will be distributed free of charge. Complimentary copies will also be available at workshops, conferences and seminars. *Action Telecom* will also be available on CD Rom and on the Internet.

Produced in non-technical language in a concise and user-friendly format, *Action Telecom* will illustrate the role, importance and benefits of telecom applications in a number of areas including agriculture, education, environment, health, natural resources, tourism, trade & industry, transportation, urban and rural development. It will detail funding and cost evaluation issues together with human resource implications and include a compilation of examples of best practice in the given subject areas from both developed and developing countries.

ITU and Regency invite authors with extensive knowledge of current telecom applications and a broad experience of conditions in developing countries to contribute to this project.

Regency would welcome views and opinions from delegates on this project.

Contact: Box No. 1260 at the
Conference or E-mail:
info@regencycorp.com



1er avril 1998

Last Day of the Conference

Trinidad and Tobago to host third WTDC

"I wish to formally announce that the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago wish to offer their positive expression of interest to host the third World Telecommunication Development Conference. We look forward to welcoming all with the warmth, excellent hospitality of our people and lovely beaches of our islands". This offer was received with applause.

The Valletta Declaration, The Valletta Action Plan and The Strategic Plan!

Valletta Conference ends on high note

Today the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-98) ended with the adoption of major decisions that will help bridge the gaps outlined in the opening hours of the conference.

A number of delegations took the floor to congratulate Malta, its government and people for their very warm

hospitality and efficiency. Special thanks were extended to the Chair of the Conference, Honourable Joe Mizzi, the Minister responsible for telecommunications, and to his Deputy, Edgar Borg, for the efficient manner in which they conducted the work of the Conference. Mr Borg chaired most of the meetings because of the Minister's busy schedule.

ITU Secretary-General, Pekka Tarjanne awarded Swiss watches to Messrs Mizzi and Borg as a token of appreciation for their outstanding leadership. The BDT Director, Ahmed Laouyane, in his closing remarks, highlighted the new responsibilities which the Conference has entrusted to the Development Sector for the next four-year period. He also thanked the hosts and Maltacom plc for the excellent preparations and contribution to the success of this world event.

Mr Laouyane and his staff were commended for the high-quality of documents presented to the Conference. All the ITU staff in Valletta and at the headquarters were also thanked for making WTDC-98 a big success. To quote one delegation "The advice and issues discussed encourage us to continue our support to the BDT as a credible source for bringing to our attention the knowledge for action at the national and international level. We were very pleased at the approach to debate and sponsor other development issues such as gender" and the youth.

Distribution générale

The Valletta Declaration

The Valletta Declaration, the Valletta Action Plan and the Strategic Plan of the ITU-D for the period 1999-2003 were approved today following the work achieved by the Working Group of the Plenary on the Valletta Action Plan. This group worked under the leadership of Mr Nabil Kisrawi (Syria) and the texts it has produced represent important milestones for the Development Sector and for the ITU as a whole.

In particular, the **Valletta Declaration** highlights the visions of keynote speakers at the opening ceremony WTDC-98 (see *Valletta News* of 23 March). It gives an overview of the many statements made during the conference by ministers responsible for telecommunications and other senior representatives of governments, the private sector and international and regional organizations. These world leaders in telecommunications underlined "the importance of translating the indisputable potential of telecommunications into tangible results to improve the lives of all people of the world, especially those in developing countries". They recognize that in this new environment, "the time is ripe for restructuring the telecommunication sector in order to stimulate private sector investment and accelerate the pace of expansion and modernization of the telecommunication networks in developing countries".
(See Document 246)

The Valletta Action Plan

This Plan contains three chapters and one annex. Chapter 1 deals with the programme of cooperation among Members of the Telecommunication Development Sector. The programme aims to incorporate all decisions of meetings of world and regional

development conferences, study groups and their associated working parties, as well as those of the Telecommunication Development Advisory Board (TDAB). This chapter also contains the Questions adopted by the Conference for study by Study Groups 1 and 2 during the 1998-2002 study period. In this regard, ten Questions have been adopted for Study Group 1 and six for Study Group 2. Council is expected to consider the order of priority when it meets in May 1998.

Chapter 2 contains the **Valletta Action Programmes**. There are six:

- Programme 1: Reform, legislation and regulation of telecommunications.
- Programme 2: Technologies and GII development and applications, including GMPCS and Internet.
- Programme 3: Rural development and universal service access.
- Programme 4: Finance and economics, including WTO issues, tariffs, accounting rates, etc.
- Programme 5: Development partnership with the private sector.
- Programme 6: Capacity building through human resources development and management.

Chapter 3 contains a special programme for LDCs.
(see Document 244).

Annex 1 to the VAP contains a list of Study Questions approved by the Conference to be incorporated into the BDT operational Plan. These Questions include the Year 2000 - Millennium problem. For full details of the VAP, see Document 214 (Rev.1).

Other key decisions of the Conference

- **Recommendation on the timely implementation of GMPCS.** This recommendation encourages administrations to sign the GMPCS-MoU and to adopt licensing procedures or national regulations, where necessary, to introduce the GMPCS services as early as possible, in line with the principles and guidelines spelled out in the five Opinions which were adopted by the first World Telecommunication Policy Forum. It instructs the Director of the BDT to "continue, as necessary, coordinating with regional organizations, as well as the two other Sectors and the Secretariat, in order to foster awareness regarding implementation of GMPCS. (See Document 224 (Rev.1))
- **Resolution GTPLEN-PS-1 on the Subgroup of TDAB dealing with private sector issues.** This resolution welcomes the decision of the conference to open the membership of TDAB. The Conference also decided, through this resolution, to establish a subgroup of TDAB to ensure that issues of particular interest and concern to the private sector, are addressed and to assure the role of the private sector as a development partner of the BDT. The resolution invites the BDT to work closely with the private sector to ensure the successful implementation of the VAP. The ITU, as a whole, is expected to make every effort to encourage the private sector to take a more active part though partnerships with telecommunication entities in developing and least developed countries, in a bid to close the gap in universal and information access. (See Document 238, Rev.1)
- **Resolution on the establishment of a TDAB Subgroup on human resources development.** This subgroup is to be established in the 1998-2003 period to provide guidance and advice in the field of human resources development. (See Document 230, Rev.1)
- **Resolution on the participation of countries, particularly developing countries, in frequency spectrum management.** This Resolution recognizes that Programme 2 of the Valletta Action Plan includes activities on spectrum management, the elaboration of technology-oriented guides and planning manuals. It highlights the importance of taking into consideration the ongoing work in the ITU's Radiocommunication Sector and ITU-D, and the need to avoid duplication. (See Document 242)
- **Resolution WGVAP-1 on the establishment of a mechanism to prioritize the activities of the ITU-D**
- **Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Study Groups 1 and 2.**

The Editorial Committee will meet in the not-to-distant future to refine the texts of the decisions taken in the last hours of the conference.

We hope that this coverage has been of some use to you.

The Valletta News Desk