



Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-25

Date: 24th January 2025

10:00 – 13:00 AST

Telecommunications Advisory Group (TDAG) Activities

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Objective of today's review

To provide an update on the work of the Telecommunications Development Advisory Group (TDAG) in preparation for WTDC-25:

- 1 ITU-D Priorities
- 2 Future Study Group Questions
- 3 Streamlining Resolutions
- 4 The Baku Declaration.

TDAG – WG – ITU D Priorities

Progress and Outcomes



Terms of Reference

- Review current ITU-D Priorities and related enablers (WTDC-22, WTDC-25 proposals, ITU-D study questions, outcomes of the RPMs, SDGs, and WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, and C6) and **develop proposals for the new ITU-D Priorities.**
- Review the implementation status and impact of the ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027 relating to ITU-D and prepare proposals for the new ITU-D contribution to ITU's Strategic Plan for the next period (2028-2031).
- **Review the implementation status and impact of the Kigali Action Plan and develop proposals for the next WTDC Action Plan.**
- Review the implementation status and impact of the four-year rolling Operational Plan, identify areas of improvement, and develop recommendations for the Draft Operational Plan.

Issues highlighted during Review of Kigali Action Plan

Cross-cutting interactions

E.g. Digital skills are required for many areas (e.g. cybersecurity, infrastructure development, inclusion, broadband connectivity)

E.g. Digital inclusion can be promoted within any type of development

E.g. Resource mobilization/ international cooperation can facilitate any type of development

Cross-cutting interactions among themes complicate the structure and lead to multiple structural problems:

Lacking or unclear categorization of themes

E.g. Resource mobilization as both a priority and enabler

E.g. Some enablers are outward elements of delivery (digital inclusion and environment sustainability)

Repetition among Objectives, Outcomes, and Outputs

E.g. Policy frameworks are outputs that support (“enable”) other objectives/outcomes, but Enabling Environment is also a separate objective with distinct outcomes

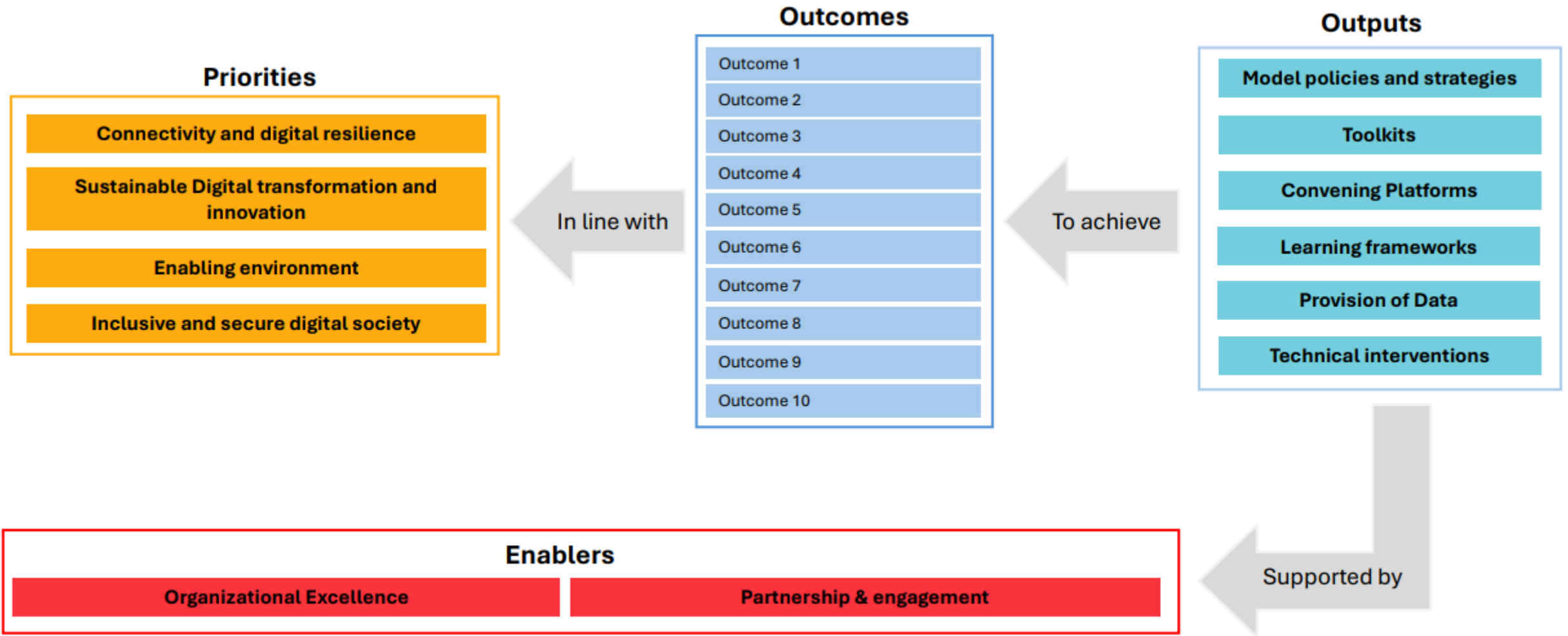
E.g. Resource Mobilization and Cooperation is an objective, but both concepts are also captured in separate Outcomes and in the output Convening Platforms

E.g. Unclear distinction between Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Repetition within enablers

E.g. Coordination, cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and collaboration are repeated within multiple enablers, but Partnerships and Cooperation is also a separate enabler

Initial Proposal for Revised ITU-D Priorities (1)



Initial Proposal for Revised ITU-D Priorities (2)

Priorities

Connectivity and digital resilience

- Including (e.g.):
- Space economy & sustainability - Broadband related - Emergency telecommunications

Sustainable Digital transformation and innovation

- Including (e.g.):
- AI, Metaverse, DPI, and other topics - Digital Innovation - Environmental sustainability

Enabling environment

- Including (e.g.):
- Digital policies and regulations – Data driven decision making

Inclusive and secure digital society

- Including (e.g.):
- Cybersecurity - Digital inclusion - LDCs/LLDCs/SIDs

Outcomes (will include KPIs)

- Improved broadband connectivity & coverage
- Improved affordability
- Strengthened capacity for disaster reduction & mgmt.

- Enhanced capacity of the ITU membership to accelerate digital transformation including by leveraging and using new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs and services
- Strengthened capacity to integrate telco/ ICTs innovation in national agendas
- Enhanced capacity to develop strategies & solutions for climate change adaptation & mitigation use of green/ renewable energy

[No Title]

- Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their telecommunication/ICT policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to sustainable development and digital transformation

- Increased literacy and awareness of cybersecurity issues, including Child Online Protection
- Enhanced capacity to develop strategies, policies & practices for digital inclusion and equity
- Strengthened capacity of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS to foster telco / ICT innovation in particular meaningful connectivity and affordability

Outputs

Model policies and strategies

Toolkits

Convening Platforms

Learning frameworks

Provision of Data

Technical interventions

Enablers

Organizational Excellence

- Including (e.g.):
- Project management and implementation capacity
 - Regional presence
 - Support Services

Partnership & engagement

- Including (e.g.):
- International cooperation
 - Membership driven
 - Resource mobilization

Preliminary Feedback on Initial Proposal

Overall acceptance by the group as a basis for further discussion, however, the following recommendations were offered:

- Clarify terminology and consider the proper placement of certain topics within priorities.
- Ensure continuity with the existing plan while building on and streamlining it.
- Ensure clear rationale and holistic approach: Definition of the ITU-D priorities and enablers.
- Ensure alignment with the ITU strategic plan and relevant ITU/UN processes, such as WSIS, GDC, and SDGs.
- Develop proper risk analysis, monitoring and evaluation methods for effective implementation of the plan.

Next Steps for the Working Group

- Further inputs and discussion are expected at the next TDAG-WG-ITU-D meeting (6 March 2025).
- A report will be provided to the upcoming regional preparatory meetings.
- The final deliverable of the working group will be submitted for consideration to TDAG-25 (12-16 May 2025).
- Final consideration and adoption: WTDC-25 – Baku Action Plan.

TDAG – WG – Future Study Group Questions

Progress and Outcomes

Terms of Reference

- To act as a single platform for focused discussions on future ITU-D Study Questions.
- To assist ITU membership in preparing for the next WTDC by proposing specific changes to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) on the scope of ITU-D Study Questions.
- To align, as far as possible, the proposed study Questions to BDT thematic priorities, proposed regional initiatives, the SDGs, and WSIS Action Lines (C2, C5, and C6).
- To research and acquire views of ITU membership through relevant channels, including surveys, contributions, and meetings.
- To liaise with ITU-D Study Groups to develop the future of study Questions.



Recall: Current ITU-D Study Group 1 Questions

<p>Study Questions</p> <p>ITU-D Study Groups</p> <p>Study Group 1 Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity</p> <p>Learn more at itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups</p>	<table><tr><td data-bbox="968 234 1197 399">Question 1/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 234 2063 399">Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 399 1197 528">Question 2/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 399 2063 528">Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting, including to provide new services for various environments</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 528 1197 628">Question 3/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 528 2063 628">The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 628 1197 813">Question 4/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 628 2063 813">Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 813 1197 999">Question 5/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 813 2063 999">Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 999 1197 1185">Question 6/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 999 2063 1185">Consumer information, protection and rights</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="968 1185 1197 1352">Question 7/1</td><td data-bbox="1197 1185 2063 1352">Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities</td></tr></table>	Question 1/1	Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries	Question 2/1	Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting, including to provide new services for various environments	Question 3/1	The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management	Question 4/1	Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs	Question 5/1	Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas	Question 6/1	Consumer information, protection and rights	Question 7/1	Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities
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Question 7/1	Telecommunication/ICT accessibility to enable inclusive communication, especially for persons with disabilities														

Recall: Current ITU-D Study Group 2 Questions

Study Questions

ITU-D Study Groups

Study Group 2
Digital Transformation

Learn more at
itu.int/itu-d/sites/studygroups

Question 1/2	Smart sustainable cities and communities
Question 2/2	Enabling technologies for e-services and applications, including e-health and e-education
Question 3/2	Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity
Question 4/2	Telecommunication/ICT equipment: Conformance and interoperability, combating counterfeiting and theft of mobile devices
Question 5/2	Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills
Question 6/2	ICTs for the environment
Question 7/2	Strategies and policies concerning human exposure to electromagnetic fields

Progress highlights

- Survey conducted to gather views from members subscribed to TDAG and TDAG-WG-FSQ's mailing lists.
- Initial contributions received and discussions held on the results of the survey and proposed changes to scope and terms of reference for some questions .
- Another opportunity for feedback: [End-of-cycle survey for ITU-D Study Groups](#). Deadline: 7 February 2025.
- Draft Deliverable ([TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/23](#)): Revision of extracts of Resolution 2 annexes, including the terms of reference of Study Questions prepared by the Chair, based on the above.
- Two proposals received for new questions (**Device Affordability/ Availability** and **Application of Artificial Intelligence**)
 - Should these issues (continue to) be addressed within the scope of other study questions as applicable, or should they be given greater visibility by treatment under a new question?
 - Members invited to collaborate with proposal owners to further consider and update recommendations as needed

Survey Results: Review of Study Group Questions

Online Consultation highlights in 1 slide – 48 responses

TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/11

Current Questions

- Important: Q1/1 Broadband (93.8%) then Q3/2 Cybersecurity (85.4%) then Q5/1 Rural & remote telco (81.3%)
- Not Important: Q4/2 C&I, Counterfeit & mobile theft (20.8%) then Q2/1 Broadcasting & Q7/2 EMF (14.6%)

Future Structure

- 2 Study Groups (63%) next is 3 Study Groups (23%)
- 10 study Questions (35%) next is 14 Questions (25%)

Future Topics

- Artificial Intelligence then new approaches to Regulation
- ### Cross Cutting Topics
- Economic Aspects
 - Digital Skills (also high as stand alone topic)

Discontinuing

- Questions studied over several periods: Q2/1 (27%) then Q4/2 & Q7/2 (23%)
- Lack of interest: Q4/2 (23%) then Q2/1 (21%)
- Do not address directly ITU strategic goals: Q6/1, Q4/2 & Q6/2 (10%)

New proposals for merging

1. Q6/1 & Q4/2
2. Q4/1 & Q5/1
3. Q4/2 & Q6/2 ewaste part to device affordability then Q3/1 & Q6/2 non ewaste part & Q7/2 in a new Questions
4. Q2/1 & Q7/2 to deal with all spectrum matters
5. Q5/2 & Q2/2
6. Q6/1 & Q7/2
7. Q6/2 & Q7/2 & Q3/1
8. Q7/1 & Q2/1

Merging

- Q1/1 Broadband & Q5/1 Rural & Remote telecoms (62.5%)
- Q1/2 Smart cities & Q2/2 Eservices & applications (58.3%)
- Q3/1 Disaster risk reduction & Q6/2 Environment (56.3%)
- Q6/2 Environment & Q7/2 EMF (54.2%)

Other Considerations by Working Group

- The extent to which the work of Study Groups have been impactful for membership and contributed to achieving the objectives of the Kigali Action Plan.
- How (are) will the digital development needs of countries (being) addressed by Study Groups?
- Optimal Approaches for sharing the work and outcomes of Study Groups with membership.

Draft Deliverable: Proposed Study Group 1 Questions

Question A/1: Deployment of telecommunications/ICTs including broadband in developing countries with focus on rural and remote areas (merged previous Q1/1 with previous Q5/1)

Question 2/1: Strategies, policies, regulations and methods of migration to and adoption of digital technologies for broadcasting, including to provide new services for various environments

Question B/1: Consumer information, protection and rights (previous Q6/1 merged with parts of previous Q4/2 namely combating counterfeiting and theft of mobile devices)

Question 4/1: Economic aspects of national telecommunications/ICTs

Question 5/1: ICT accessibility for inclusive digital ecosystem

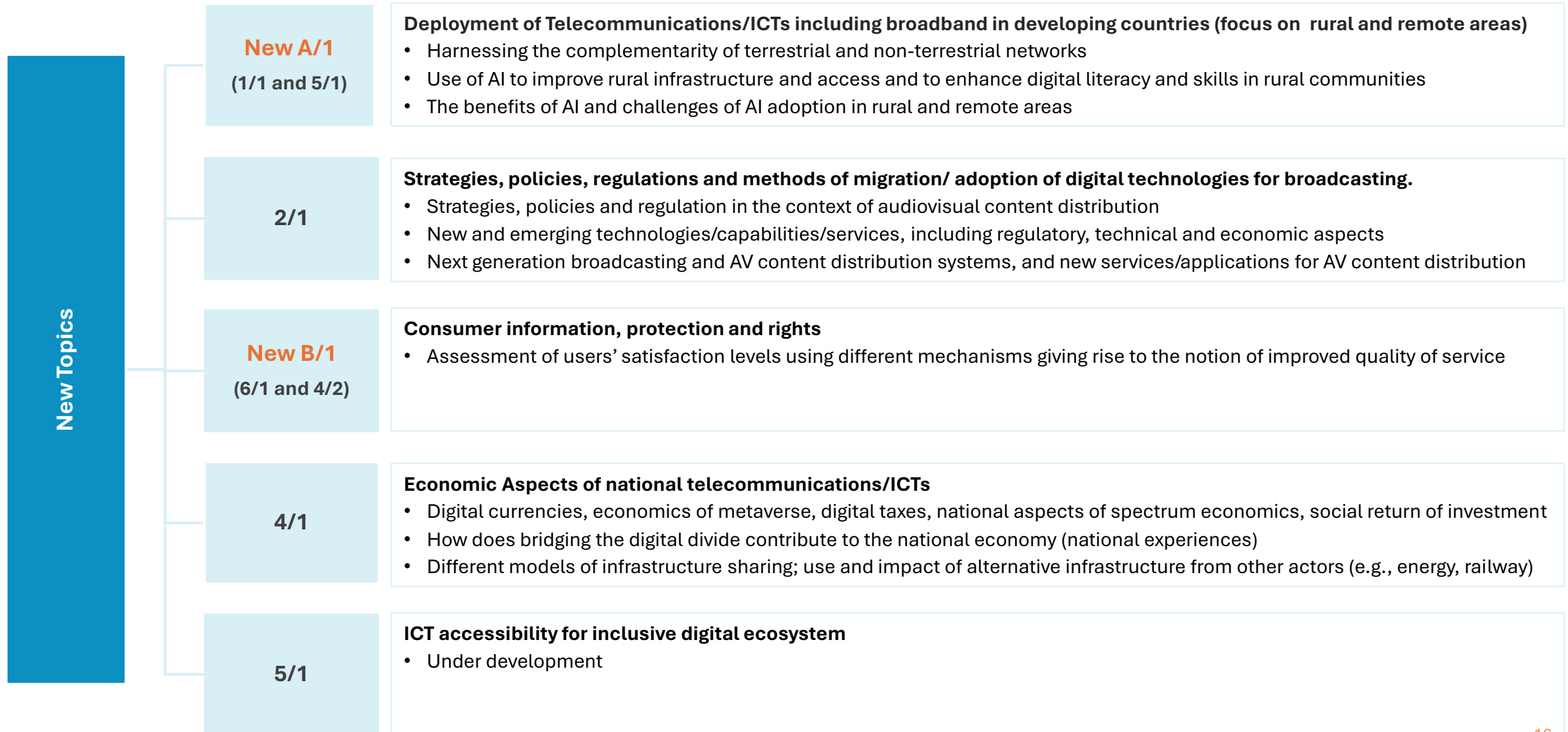
Questions with a developing country focus:

A1, B/1, 4/1, 5/1

Questions with an additional explicit SIDS Focus:

A/1

Study Group 1: Overview of Proposed New Topics



Draft Deliverable: Proposed Study Group 2 Questions

Question A/2: Enabling technologies for e-services and applications in the context of smart sustainable cities and communities, including e-health and e-education (merged previous Q1/2 with previous Q2/2)

Question 2/2: The use of telecommunications/ICTs for disaster risk reduction and management (Previous Q3/1 moved to SG2)

Question 3/2: Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity |

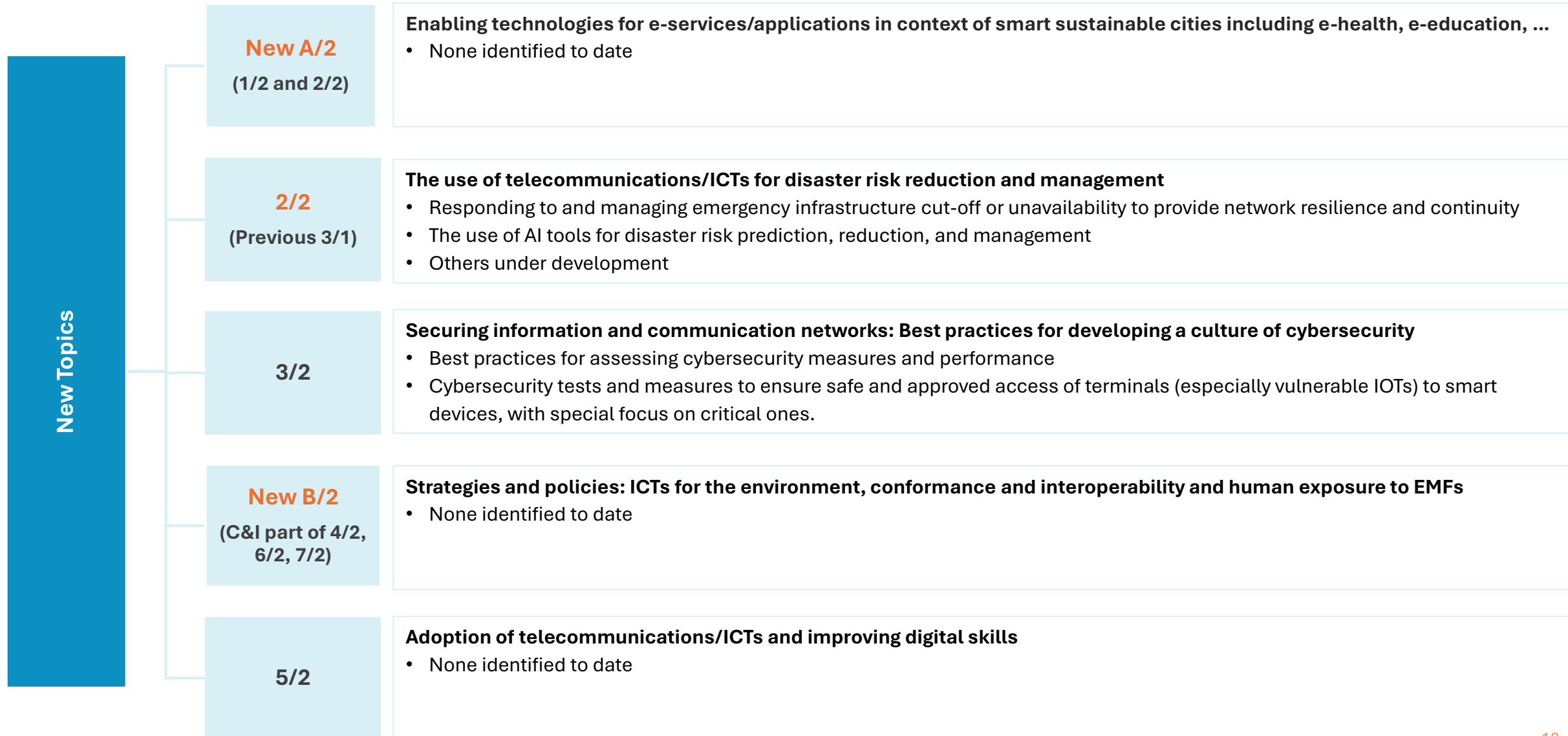
Question B/2: Strategies and policies concerning ICTs for the environment, [conformance and interoperability of telecommunication/ICT equipment,] and human exposure to electromagnetic fields (merge of previous [Q4/2 C&I part,] Q6/2 and Q7/2)

Question 5/2: Adoption of telecommunications/ICTs and improving digital skills

Questions with a developing country focus: A/2, 2/2, 3/2

Questions with an additional explicit SIDS Focus: 3/2, 5/2

Study Group 2: Overview of Proposed New Topics



Next Steps for the Working Group

At the meeting of 4th March 2025

- Each focal point from regional groups (ATU, CITELE, APT, LAS, RCC, CEPT) will present a contribution from his/her Region
- The update from TDAG WG on ITU-D Priorities will be presented as a contribution
- Discuss all contributions received to reach a **final consolidated document** which shares information to assist
 - ITU membership in their preparations for the next WTDC by proposing specific changes to Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) [on the scope of ITU-D study Questions, their number, titles, and terms of reference](#), taking into consideration the evolution of ICTs, priorities of ITU membership, as well as current and past activities/outcomes of ITU-D study groups

TDAG – WG – Streamlining Resolutions

Progress and Outcomes

Terms of Reference

- To review WTDC resolutions, examine their total number and subject matters, and consider streamlining, to avoid repetitions and duplication with the Resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference.
- To analyse and identify specific instructions for ITU-D contained in the final documents of PP-22, including those not reflected in the relevant WTDC resolutions.
- While noting TDAG-23 guiding principles and potential overlaps with PP resolutions, take into consideration the following for streamlining WTDC Resolutions:
 - suppressing any WTDC Resolution in its entirety;
 - suppressing any text which contains dispositions already contained in PP Resolutions
 - merging of WTDC Resolutions containing similar matters.



Progress highlight: Proposed Clustering of WTDC Resolutions

Clusters	WTDC Resolution	Volunteers
1. Information and Statistics	Res. 8	Russian Federation
2. Regional Cooperation and Projects	Res. 17	Australia
3. Infrastructure and Access Networks	Res. 20, Res. 22, Res. 23, Res. 63	Ghana
4. ITU's Role in Strategic Fora and Sectors Coordination	Res. 30, Res. 48, Res. 59	
5. Environment	Res. 34, Res. 66, Res. 62	
6. Gender and Youth	Res. 55, Res. 76	Canada
7. Connectivity	Res. 16, Res. 37, Res. 71	
8. Security and Conformance	Res. 45, Res. 47, Res. 79, Res. 84	
9. Accessibility, Consumers and Child Online Protection (Vulnerable Users)	Res. 58, Res. 64, Res. 67, Res. 82	Brazil
10. Innovation	Res. 85, Res. 90	

Volunteers were invited to review each cluster of resolutions for streamlining.

Ongoing Work and Next Steps for the Working Group

- Further contributions on additional clusters are welcome, including other resolutions and contributions that may be under preparation by regional organisations.
- Volunteers are still being called upon to assist in the clustering and streamlining work.
- Additional online meetings to be held before TDAG-25:

Meeting name	Dates	Purpose
5th meeting TDAG-WG-SR	26 March 2025	Wrap-up the Contributions and resume the TDAG-WG-SR proposals to TDAG
6th meeting TDAG-WG-SR	2 May 2025 (tentative)	Wrap-up the Contributions and resume the TDAG-WG-SR proposals to TDAG

TDAG – WG – WTDC Declaration

Progress and Outcomes

Terms of Reference

- To propose elements and make recommendations to ITU membership for the future draft Declaration.



Initial Proposal for Theme and Structure

- **Key topics ***
 - In terms of the key topics to be addressed in the Declaration, the Group emphasised the need to coordinate with the other TDAG working groups, in particular the one on ITU-D Priorities (TDAG-WG-ITUDP)
 - Rationale and thinking process informed by the original mapping of topics in the Kigali Declaration and new and emerging topics
- **Proposed Theme ***
 - ‘Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future’
- **Proposed Structure ***
 - The Group agreed to retain a structure similar to the Kigali Declaration and be concise, simple and with clear and actionable language, speaking to both the challenges of global digital development and potential solutions
 - Four main sections: Introduction, ‘We declare,’ ‘We commit,’ and Call to Action

** As agreed at the second meeting of the TDAG Working Group on the Declaration ([TDAG-WG-DEC/6](#))*

Next Steps for Working Group

- The Chair will prepare an initial proposal of the narrative for the Declaration for the next TDAG-WG-DEC meeting (5 March 2025).
- Reports will be provided to the upcoming regional preparatory meetings.
- The final deliverable of the working group will be submitted for consideration to TDAG-25 (12-16 May 2025).
- Final consideration and adoption: WTDC-25 – Baku Declaration.

Some Considerations for Later Session on Regional Priorities



Some Considerations

- Strengthening the enabling environment for the use of satellite technology for the provision of ICT infrastructure/ services in unserved/underserved communities, and for improved digital resilience.
- Improved resource mobilization and more appropriate eligibility criteria for support and investment opportunities.
- Building national capacities for measuring the digital divide (national surveys) and more clarity in UN/ITU reporting on inclusion and access gaps in the Caribbean.
- Strengthening data governance to inform policy making and development strategies.
- Support to disaster prone jurisdictions for infrastructure rebuilding.
- Digital innovation and capacity building to drive sustainable development, and support to create, opportunities for youth (e.g., junior professional programs, innovation hubs, etc.).
- Support and ICT capacity building for CARICOM mission staff and ICT professionals to understand linkages between work of ITU and other UN organizations to enhance representation of national/regional interests (e.g., AI use and governance, addressing investment gap in the region).

The above is not an exhaustive list given previous/ongoing work to identify regional priorities. These could potentially inform recommendations on new resolutions, streamlining of resolutions, ITU-D regional priorities, future study group questions or specific regional initiatives (as appropriate).

Thank you!

Q&A/Discussion

