Chair, TDAG-WG-DEC

Revised draft annotated outline of the Baku Declaration 2025

Summary:

The document contains a draft annotated outline prepared by the TDAG-WG-DEC Chair, incorporating proposals received during the Second meeting of the group.

Action required:

For information

References:

TDAG-WG-DEC/4(Rev.1) (original document)

Terms of Reference of TDAG-WG-DEC: TDAG-24/DT/4

Website of TDAG-WG-DEC

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1. Introduction

TDAG-WG-DEC was entrusted the task 'to propose elements and make recommendations to ITU membership for the future draft Declaration' of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2025 (WTDC-25) (see the Terms of Reference of the Group).

This document presents a draft annotated outline of the WTDC-25 Declaration (Baku Declaration hereafter) for discussion as prepared by the Chair of TDAG-WG-DEC and incorporating membership's views expressed during the first meeting of the group and informal consultations. It is based on the mapping of the themes in the Kigali Declaration contained in document TDAG-WG-DEC/INF/1 and is informed by discussions on the ITU-D priorities.

The purpose of this draft is to serve as a basis for the discussion and advance the thinking of Member States on the Baku Declaration under the mandate given to the TDAG-WG-DEC by TDAG. Building on feedback received during the second meeting of TDAG-WG-DEC, the Chair will prepare a draft narrative containing elements for the Declaration which will be refined during the third meeting. The final version of the narrative agreed by the Working Group will be submitted for further consideration by TDAG-25/2 and possible submission as an input to WTDC where it will be finalized and the final Baku Declaration adopted.

2. Proposal of title for the Baku Declaration

Based on the discussion during the first meeting of TDAG-WG-DEC and informal consultations, the Chair proposes the following title for the Declaration: 'Universal, meaningful and affordable connectivity for an inclusive and sustainable digital future'.

3. Draft proposed outline: Baku Declaration

I INTRODUCTION

The section will include:

1) **Chapeau**

   Referring to WTDC-25 (similar to the Kigali Declaration), purpose and audience of the Declaration

2) **Vision statement**

   Articulating the shared aspiration for inclusive, sustainable and equitable digital development.

3) **Acknowledgment**

   Recognizing progress, challenges and disparities in global digital transformation.

4) **Alignment with key ITU and UN outcomes**

   Referring to the Summit of the Future outcomes, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WSIS+20 and the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development.

II WE DECLARE

The section will include paragraphs focusing on:

1) **The role of digital connectivity, services and solutions for development**

   Acknowledging digital technologies as enablers for addressing development challenges

Keywords: Promise and potential of digital transformation; new and emerging technologies for better livelihoods; economic prosperity and sustainable development; need for holistic approaches; digital economies and societies

2) **Challenges and opportunities**

Identifying key barriers to digital transformation and highlighting emerging opportunities for inclusive digital growth

Keywords: universal and meaningful connectivity, digital divides; electricity, including green and blue energy; digital transformation; digital data, tools, platforms and networks

3) **Global context**

Highlighting the urgency of digital transformation amidst global crises and technological advancements

Keywords: rapid technology evolution; sustainability, environmental issues and climate change; natural hazards; economic resilience

4) **Shared responsibility**

Recognizing the need for collaborative efforts among governments, the private sector and civil society

Keywords: shared goals; interdependence; solidarity; collective action; catalytic interventions; impact multiplier; multi-stakeholder

5) ***Importance of inclusivity and equity**

Affirming the importance of leaving no one behind in digital transformation

Keywords: inclusive and human-centred approaches; gender equality; digital inclusion of persons with disabilities, youth, the elderly, indigenous populations; intersectionality

III WE COMMIT

The section will be further informed by discussions on the ITU-D priorities and will include paras focusing on:

1) **Bridging digital divides and accelerating a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation**

Focusing efforts to expand universal and meaningful connectivity and support sustainable and secure infrastructure for digital transformation, particularly in underserved communities

Keywords: connectivity; affordability; digital resilience; digital infrastructure; investment and financing; new and emerging technologies and services (including Artificial Intelligence); interoperable/ interconnected networks; Digital public goods and digital public infrastructure; space (access to orbits); confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs/cybersecurity; early warning

2) ***Building capacity**

Committing to support human and institutional capacity building across all ITU-D priority areas

Keywords: digital capacity, policy and regulatory capacity, literacy and skills development; Science, Technology and Innovation

3) **Fostering resilient and equitable digital economies and ecosystems**

Supporting the development of telecommunication/ICT policies to drive economic growth, foster innovation, and enable equitable participation in the global economy.

Keywords: Enabling environment; digital strategies; evidence-based decision-making; cross-sector approaches; agile policies and regulations; data governance; digital innovation and entrepreneurship; ICT accessibility, digital inclusion, youth and youth engagement; gender equality, green digital action; e-waste

4) **Strengthening collaboration and partnerships**

Promoting collaboration among stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, international organizations and civil society, and making the case for innovative partnerships to leverage resources, knowledge and experiences

Keywords: multi-stakeholder collaboration; alliances and partnerships; South-South and Triangular Cooperation; sharing of technology, knowledge and good practices; new initiatives; driving impact

5) **Prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable countries (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS)**

Committing to tailored support for their connectivity and digital transformation

Keywords: technical assistance; resource mobilization; matchmaking; impact-driven projects and initiatives; digital inclusivity

IV CALL TO ACTION

The section will call on Member States adopting the Declaration to digital development, international and regional cooperation, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable countries and groups and call upon governments and development partners to intensify their implementation efforts to support and accelerate relevant programmes, projects and initiatives for the full and rapid implementation of the Baku Action Plan, the Baku Declaration and WTDC Resolutions.

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