

04 November 2025
Ref.: 11-04-2025/DG-24

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Director General

TO: ALL PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION

SUBJECT: ITS0 INFORMATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO WTDC-25

The Director General of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) presents her compliments and has the honor to share with the Parties a document entitled *Contribution on referencing Radiocommunications Assembly Resolution ITU-R-69 (2023) in the ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 1.1* (attached in annex). This document was submitted by the Director General to the World Telecommunications Development Conference of the ITU (WTDC-25).

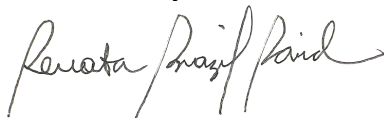
The goal of the contribution is to highlight the relevance of the mandate of Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (2023) "Development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries" for the upcoming work of ITU-D and properly reflect it in the Terms of Reference of the relevant Question 1.1.

This document was shared during its preparation with the Frequency Working Party Members and Experts, AP-41 Chair, AP-41 Working Group Chair, Coordinators and Vice-Coordinators for its review. Some Parties have already expressed their support to this contribution and all ITSO Parties are welcome to associate their support during WTDC-25 itself.

For coordination purposes, please let us know if your Administration will participate at WTDC and would be willing to support this contribution. All communications should be addressed to:

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renata Brazil-David".

Renata Brazil-David
Director General



**World Telecommunication Development
Conference 2025 (WTDC-25)**
Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, 17-28 November 2025



PLENARY MEETING

Document WTDC-25/4921-E
24 October 2025
Original: English

PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (ITSO)

Contribution to the World Telecommunication Development Conference
(WTDC-25) on referencing Radiocommunications Assembly Resolution ITU-R-69
(2023) in the ITU-D Study Group 1 Question 1.1

Priority area: - Thematic Priorities, Action Plan, Regional Initiatives and SG Questions

Summary: The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) would like to submit this contribution for the consideration of the WTDC-25. This contribution proposes that the scope of ITU-D STUDY GROUP 1 Question 1.1 be updated to explicitly include Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (2023), "Development and deployment of international public telecommunications via satellite in developing countries." Resolution ITU-R 69-2 is of direct relevance to Question 1.1, as it encourages Member States to facilitate the development and deployment of satellite-based international public telecommunications in developing countries. The inclusion of this Resolution would strengthen the linkage between ITU-R technical guidance and ITU-D development priorities.

Expected results: The inclusion of Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (2023) in the scope of ITU-D STUDY GROUP 1 Question 1.1 would add specific areas of work for the future cycle of ITU-D being a complementary element in addition to the current set of topics proposed for the Terms of Reference of the revised Question 1.1.

This referencing of Resolution ITU-R 69-2 in Question 1.1 is expected to achieve the following results:

- Promoting satellite as an enabler of universal connectivity in underserved and remote regions.

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- Ensuring policy and regulatory alignment between ITU-R and ITU-D outputs, thereby enhancing the impact of both Sectors.
- Encouraging capacity-building and knowledge sharing among developing countries on the effective use of satellite telecommunications.
- Strengthening cooperation between Member States, operators, and intergovernmental organizations in the deployment of satellite infrastructure.

ITSO stands ready to cooperate with ITU Member States, ITU-D, and other stakeholders in advancing these objectives.

References:

- Doc WTDC-25/11-E. Chair, ITU-D Study Group 1. REPORT ON ITU-D STUDY GROUP 1 ACTIVITIES FOR THE EIGHTH STUDY PERIOD BETWEEN WTDC-22 AND WTDC-25.
- TDAG-WG-futureSGQ/28-E, Vice-Chair, ITU-D Study Group 1. Compilation of Terms of Reference for ITU-D Study Group 1 Questions
- ITU Radiocommunications Assembly. Resolution ITU-R 69-2 (2023)

STUDY GROUP 1

MOD ITSO/4921/1

QUESTION 1/1

Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries

1 Statement of the situation or problem

Broadband technologies are fundamentally transforming the way we live. Broadband infrastructure, applications and services offer important opportunities for boosting economic growth, enhancing communications, improving energy efficiency, safeguarding the planet and improving people's lives.

Broadband access has had a significant impact on the world economy.

Rapid evolution and new business opportunities are driving rapid but uneven growth in digital technologies.¹ According to ITU data, 2019 marked the first full year when more than half the world began to participate in the global digital economy by logging onto the Internet. The latest ITU data show that some 49 per cent of the world's population currently remain unconnected (ITU, 2020 estimates).²

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has also restated the importance of diverse ICTs in ensuring connectivity, as illustrated by insights shared on the Reg4Covid platform.³

In addition to the work related to studies on technical and economical aspects, it is important to also focus on the best ways to disseminate such knowledge. In the past study cycle, ITU-R has held its Radiocommunications Assembly in 2023 and has updated the ITU-R Resolution 69. This revised resolution ITU-R 69-2 strengthens the ITU-R's mandate to collaborate with, and provide information when requested by, ITU-D on satellite technologies and applications (as defined in ITU-R recommendations and Reports) and on satellite regulatory procedures in the Radio Regulations, that will help developing countries with development and implementation of satellite networks and services. Consequently, ITU-D should continue its interrelated activities with ITU-R to ensure it secures the necessary support for the development and deployment of international public telecommunication services via satellite in developing countries.

As noted in the report of the Chairman of Study Group 1 to the TDAG virtual meetings held from 2 to 5 June 2020⁴, and recognized in several instances and reports of study Question 1/1 for the ITU-

¹ ITU Statistics. <https://datahub.itu.int/>

² ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. The State of Broadband: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development (September 2019). https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/pol/S-POL-BROADBAND.20-2019-PDF-E.pdf

³ ITU Reg4Covid. https://reg4covid.itu.int/?page_id=59

⁴ See Annex 8 to [Document TDAG-20/12\(Rev.2\)](#).

D study period 2018-2021, the Question has to continue for the next study period, and the topics of interest to be reflected in the next study period under the overall theme of strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries⁵ are:

- Policies, strategies and regulatory aspects of broadband
- Broadband access technologies
- Financing and investment aspects of broadband
- Impact of COVID-19 and other pandemics on broadband networks
- Digital transformation/infrastructure
- Co-deployment and sharing of broadband infrastructure with other infrastructure networks

2 Question or issue for study

2.1 Continuing topics from previous study period

- 1) Policies and regulations that promote increased high-speed, high-quality broadband network connectivity in developing countries, considering trends in the various broadband access technologies, barriers for infrastructure deployment and investment, best practices on cross-border connectivity and challenges for small island developing states.
- 2) Effective and efficient ways to fund increased broadband access for the unserved and underserved populations in non-rural or urban areas.
- 3) The regulatory and market conditions necessary to promote deployment of broadband networks and services, including, as appropriate, the establishment of asymmetric regulation for operators with significant market power (SMP), such as local loop unbundling, if required, for such SMP operators, and organizational options for national regulatory authorities resulting from convergence.
- 4) Promoting incentives and an enabling regulatory environment for the investments required to meet the growing demand for access to the Internet generally, and bandwidth and infrastructure requirements in particular, for delivering affordable broadband services to meet development needs, including consideration of public, private and public-private partnerships for investment.

⁵ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

- 5) Methods and strategies influencing the effective deployment of wireline and wireless, including satellite, broadband access technologies, including backhaul considerations, for unserved and underserved populations in non-rural and urban areas.
- 6) Methodologies for the planning and implementation of migration to broadband technologies, taking into account existing networks, as appropriate.
- 7) National digital policies, strategies and plans which seek to ensure that broadband is available to as wide a community of users as possible.
- 8) Flexible, transparent approaches to promoting robust competition in the provision of network access (in possible collaboration with Question 4/1).
- 9) Co-investment and the co-location and shared use of infrastructure, including through active infrastructure-sharing (in possible collaboration with Question 4/1).
- 10) Licensing approaches and business models for promoting broadband network expansion that more effectively integrate the use of terrestrial, satellite, backhaul and submarine telecommunication infrastructure (in possible collaboration with Questions 4/1 and 5/1).
- 11) Holistic universal access and service strategies and financing mechanisms, including universal service funds, for both network expansion and connectivity for unserved and underserved populations in non-rural and urban areas (in possible collaboration with Questions 4/1 and 5/1).

2.2 New topics for this study period

- 12) Strategies to enhance the quality of service of the network with increased data traffic (in possible collaboration with Question 6/1).
- 13) Analysis of the impact of the expected delay in the deployment of terrestrial and non-terrestrial advanced telecommunication infrastructures, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the consequent economic downturn, as well as technological alternatives complementary to the existing network to accommodate increased data traffic.

- 14) National digital policies, strategies and plans which seek to accelerate the deployment of advanced networks along with the promotion of e-education, e-health and telework after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 15) Co-deployment and sharing of broadband infrastructure with other infrastructure networks.
- 16) Disseminate the results of the studies towards promoting sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity, in accordance with ITU-R Resolution 69-2.
- 17) Assist developing countries to extend and enhance the capacity-building activities on the use of broadband connectivity via satellite, encouraging joint activities of Q1/1 of ITU-D and relevant Study Groups of ITU-R. Organize workshops, seminars and training courses that specifically address sustainable and affordable access to satellite telecommunications, including broadband connectivity (ITU-R Resolution 69-2)

3 Expected output

Revision of the Final Report on Question 1/1 for ITU-D study period 2018-2021, as appropriate.

4 Timing

Annual progress reports will be presented to Study Group 1 in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Deliverables identified in § 3 could be sent to Study Group 1 for approval when ready without waiting for the end of study period.

5 Proposers/sponsors

ITU-D Study Group 1 proposed the continuation of this Question as modified herein.

6 Sources of input

- 1) Results of related technical progress in relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.
- 2) Contributions from Member States, Sector Members and Associates and from relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups, and other stakeholders.
- 3) Interviews, existing reports and surveys should also be used to gather data and information for the finalization of a comprehensive set of best-practice guidelines.
- 4) Material from regional telecommunication organizations, telecommunication research centres, manufacturers and working groups should also be used, in order to avoid duplication of work.
- 5) ITU publications, reports and Recommendations on broadband access technologies.
- 6) Relevant output and information from study Questions related to ICT applications.

- 7) Relevant inputs and information from BDT programmes related to broadband and the different broadband access technologies.

7 Target audience

Target audience	Developed countries	Developing countries
Telecom policy-makers	Yes	Yes
Telecom regulators	Yes	Yes
Service providers/operators	Yes	Yes
Manufacturers	Yes	Yes
Consumers/end users	Yes	Yes
Standards-development organizations, including consortia	Yes	Yes

a) Target audience

All national telecom policy-makers, regulators, service providers and operators, especially those in developing countries, as well as manufacturers of broadband technologies.

b) Proposed methods for implementation of the results

The results of the Question are to be distributed through ITU-D interim and final reports. This will provide a means for the audience to have periodic updates on the work carried out and to provide input and/or seek clarification/more information from ITU-D Study Group 1 should they need it.

8 Proposed methods of handling the Question or issue

Close coordination is essential with ITU-D programmes, and other relevant ITU-D study Questions, and with ITU-R and ITU-T study groups.

a) How?

- 1) Within a study group:
 - Question (over a multi-year study period) ☒
- 2) Within regular BDT activity:
 - Programmes ☒
 - Projects ☒
 - Expert consultants ☒

- 3) In other ways: To be defined in the work plan



b) Why?

The Question will be addressed within a study group over a four-year study period (with submission of interim results), and will be managed by a rapporteur group. This will enable Member States and Sector Members to contribute their experiences and lessons learned with respect to policy, regulatory and technical aspects of the migration from existing networks to broadband networks.

9 Coordination and collaboration

The ITU-D study group dealing with this study Question will need to coordinate with: relevant ITU-R and ITU-T study groups; the relevant outputs from other ITU-D study Questions; relevant focal points in BDT and ITU regional offices; coordinators of relevant project activities in BDT; experts and experienced organizations in this field.

10 BDT programme link

Links to the ITU-D priorities of the Kigali Action Plan, specifically to "Affordable connectivity" and "Enabling policy and regulatory environment". Further information will be in the work plan.

11 Other relevant information

As may become apparent within the life of the Question.

Reasons: