

6TH MEETING OF THE GROUP ON CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES (GCBI)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

27-28 FEBRUARY 2018

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY

The Group on Capacity Building Initiatives (GCBI) held its 6th meeting in Geneva to discuss capacity building work since the last GCBI meeting held in Geneva in February 2017.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Santiago Reyes-Borda.

The meeting was attended by 9 GCBI members. Mr Joao Chaves was unable to attend and Mr David Mellor and Mr I.S. Khanna have resigned. Mr Toni Janevski participated as a resource person on a temporary basis and pending the decision from CEPT to appoint a successor. The group welcomed the presence of a delegation from the Ministry of Communications of India and took note of their presentations on key capacity building priorities and initiatives.

The key outcomes of the meeting are:

1. The group noted the outcomes of WTDC 2017, as contained in the Buenos Aires Action Plan, which include a strong mandate for work on capacity building. The group also noted the revisions to Resolution 40 on GCBI, to Resolution 73 on the Centres of Excellence and to Resolution 46 on indigenous people.
2. The group discussed and took note of the review of the document Operational Processes and Procedures for the Centers of Excellence Network (2018). They noted the major changes in the document and considered the revised document as a good basis for implementing the next cycle of the Centers of Excellence network.
3. The group discussed the process for selection of CoEs for the next round and noted the timeline within which the whole process would be implemented.
4. The group noted that the first term of service for the members of the GCBI comes to an end in 2018 and that the call for nominations for the next four years will be initiated.
5. The group made presentations relating to their respective regions, and the following issues emerged from the presentations and subsequent discussions:
 - While there are important differences across regions when it comes to capacity building issues, most of the emerging ICT trends are global.
 - There is an increase in the demand for digitally skilled workers in all regions and most countries are not able to develop the required skills at the pace dictated by the digital transformation.
 - The target audience for capacity building activities needs to be broad and include professionals (e.g. middle and senior-level managers), young people and students, researchers, SMEs, underserved communities and other users of ICT. In particular, there is an increasing growth of “digital natives” who are spearheading innovative ICT advances.
 - Capacity building should be customized to respond to specific needs and priorities of different target groups. In this respect, strong stakeholder engagement and feedback

of technology users beyond policy makers and regulators is important to analyze capacity building needs and priorities.

- Training should take a more interdisciplinary approach, where one course combines the technical, business and regulatory aspects.
- Topics to be delivered should take into consideration the desired impact that should be achieved. Training workers for future labour market needs should focus on the digital transformation and digital economy, including topics around AI, big data analytics and data science, IoT, cloud computing and cybersecurity. In addition, training is required for ICT users with a focus on ICT applications and solutions and non-technical aspects of the digital economy and society.
- Partnerships for delivery of training should be promoted (e.g. with academic institutions), as well as proactive engagement, coordination and feedback from stakeholders.

The next GCBI meeting will take place in early 2019. The dates and venue of the meeting will be provided at a later stage.

The final draft report of this meeting will be circulated to GCBI members for comments by 16 March 2018. GCBI members are invited to submit comments within one week thereafter. The final report will then be posted on the GCBI webpage by 23 March 2018.

Santiago Reyes-Borda

Chairman, GCBI

28 February 2018