

RESOLUTION 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)

Role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a)* the outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- b)* Resolution 70/125 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- c)* UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d)* UNGA Resolution 76/189, on information and communication technologies (ICTs) for sustainable development;
- e)* the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), which were submitted as an input into the UNGA's overall review on the implementation of WSIS outcomes;
- f)* Resolution 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on bridging the digital divide;
- g)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023;
- h)* Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity;

- i)* Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs;
- j)* Resolution 131 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;
- k)* Resolution 139 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;
- l)* Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes;
- m)* Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;
- n)* the opinions of the sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum relevant to ITU's activities on WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

recognizing

- a)* that WSIS stated that the core competencies of ITU are of crucial importance for building the information society, and identified ITU as a moderator/facilitator for implementing WSIS Action Lines C2 and C5, and as a partner in Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C6, C7 and C11, as well as Action Line C8 and C9;
- b)* that it was agreed among the parties to follow-up of the Summit outcomes to appoint ITU as moderator/facilitator for the implementation of WSIS Action Lines C4 and C6, in which it was previously only a partner;

c) that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) – in view of its purposes and objectives; the nature of the existing partnership among Member States and ITU-D Sector Members; its experience over many years in dealing with different development needs and implementing a range of projects, including infrastructure projects and specifically telecommunication/ICT infrastructure projects, financed by possible partnerships; the nature of its four existing objectives, to meet the needs of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and fostering an enabling environment, and to achieve the WSIS goals; and the presence of its authorized regional offices – is a key partner in the implementation of WSIS outcomes, in respect of WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, which are the cornerstone of the Sector's work pursuant to the ITU Constitution and Convention, and also participates with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of Action Lines C1, C3, C7, C8, C9 and C11 and all other relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

d) that UNGA Resolution 70/125 calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs and poverty eradication, and noting that access to ICTs has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

e) that the WSIS outcomes will help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and help facilitate the development of the digital economy,

recognizing further

a) the commitment of ITU to implement relevant WSIS outcomes as one of the most important goals for the Union;

b) the potential of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;

c) that ITU-D shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), capacity building (WSIS Action Line C4), confidence and security in the use of ICTs (WSIS Action Line C5), enabling environment (WSIS Action Line C6) and e-applications (WSIS Action Line C7),

taking into account

- a) Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, on the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Resolution ITU-R 61-2 (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- c) the programmes, activities and regional initiatives being carried out in accordance with the decisions of this conference for bridging the digital divide;
- d) the relevant work already accomplished and/or to be carried out by ITU and reported to the ITU Council, including the annual reports on the activities of the Council Working Group on WSIS & SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) and the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet);
- e) Council Resolution 1332, on ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- f) Council Resolution 1336, on CWG-Internet,

noting

that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU SDG & WSIS Task Force, whose role is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that this task force is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General,

resolves to invite the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

- 1 to continue working in cooperation with the other ITU Sectors and with development partners (governments, specialized agencies of the United Nations, relevant international and regional organizations, etc.), through a clear plan and appropriate mechanisms for coordination among the different partners concerned at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, having particular regard to the needs of the developing countries¹, including in the field of building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to support and accelerate the implementation of the other WSIS goals that can help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and facilitate the development of the digital economy;
- 2 to continue its work on the realization of the WSIS vision;
- 3 to contribute to achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through and in harmony with the WSIS framework;
- 4 to continue to encourage the principle of non-exclusion from the information society and to devise appropriate mechanisms to this end (§§ 20-25 of the Tunis Commitment);
- 5 to continue to facilitate an enabling environment encouraging ITU-D Sector Members to give priority to investing in the development of the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, encompassing rural, isolated and remote regions, through different technologies;
- 6 to assist Member States in finding and/or improving innovative financial mechanisms to develop telecommunication/ICT infrastructure (such as those mentioned in § 27 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and partnerships);
- 7 to continue to assist developing countries in advancing their legal and regulatory frameworks in order to further the goal of building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and achieve the other WSIS goals and SDGs;
- 8 to promote international cooperation and capacity building in issues related to cyberthreats and building confidence and security in the use of ICTs consistent with WSIS Action Line C5, in which ITU is sole facilitator;

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

9 to pursue its activities in the field of statistical work for telecommunication development, using the indicators required to evaluate progress in this area with a view to bridging the digital divide, *inter alia*, within the framework of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and consistent with §§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda and taking into account new and emerging technologies;

10 to develop and implement the ITU-D strategic plan, taking into account the need to give priority to building the telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including broadband access, at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, and to achieve the other WSIS goals and SDGs related to the activities of ITU-D;

11 to propose at the forthcoming plenipotentiary conference appropriate mechanisms for funding the activities flowing from the WSIS outcomes and SDGs that are relevant to the core competencies of ITU, specifically those to be adopted in relation to:

- i) WSIS Action Lines C2, C4, C5 and C6, in which ITU is now identified as the sole facilitator;
- ii) WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C6, C7, including its eight sub-action lines, and C11, in which ITU is now identified as a co-facilitator, as well as C8 and C9, in which ITU is identified as a partner;
- iii) relevant SDGs and targets through and in harmony with the WSIS framework,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to continue to provide CWG-WSIS&SDG with a comprehensive summary of ITU-D activities on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of ITU-D, in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and with the objectives that will be set for ITU-D by the Plenipotentiary Conference in 2022 with regard to the implementation by ITU of the WSIS+10 outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

3 to provide the membership with information on emerging trends based on ITU-D activities;

4 in close collaboration with the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau and the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, to take account of the impact of ITU's work related to digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy, in line with the WSIS stocktaking process, and provide assistance to the membership upon request;

5 to take appropriate action to facilitate the activities to implement this resolution,

further instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to act as a catalyst in the development of partnerships among all parties, with a view to ensuring that initiatives and projects, especially those related to WSIS and the SDGs, attract investment, and to continue to act as a catalyst in the following functions, among others:

- i) encouraging the implementation of regional telecommunication/ICT initiatives and projects;
- ii) participating in the organization of training seminars;
- iii) signing agreements with national, regional and international partners involved in development, when required;
- iv) collaborating on initiatives and projects with other relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate;

2 to promote human capacity building in developing countries relating to various aspects of the telecommunication/ICT sector, consistent with the mandate of ITU-D;

3 to foster an environment, particularly with the ITU regional offices, that enables small, medium and micro enterprises in and among developing countries to develop and grow;

4 in implementing the WSIS outcomes/SDGs within the mandate of ITU-D, to pay particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

5 to encourage international financial institutions, Member States and Sector Members, in their respective roles, to address, as a priority issue, the building, reconstruction and upgrading of networks and infrastructure in developing countries;

6 to pursue coordination with international bodies, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources needed in the implementation of projects;

7 to take the necessary initiatives to encourage partnerships which have been given high priority pursuant to:

- i) the Geneva Plan of Action;
- ii) the Tunis Agenda;
- iii) the outcomes of the WSIS review process and WSIS vision;
- iv) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8 to submit contributions to the relevant annual reports of the ITU Secretary-General on these activities;

9 to strengthen, involving, among others, the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the United Nations regional economic commissions and United Nations Regional Development Group, as well as all United Nations agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), and other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, with the aim of the following:

- i) aligning WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125;
- ii) implementing ICT for SDG actions through the relevant United Nations initiatives and resolutions;
- iii) incorporating ICTs in the United Nations development assistance frameworks;
- iv) developing partnerships for implementation of inter-agency and multistakeholder projects, advancing implementation of WSIS action lines and advancing achievement of SDGs;
- v) highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;
- vi) strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes and WSIS Stocktaking,

encourages the ITU-D study groups

to continue their active contribution to activities related to WSIS and SDGs,

calls upon Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to continue to give priority to the development of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including in rural, remote and underserved areas, to building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs, to fostering an enabling environment and to ICT applications, in order to build an inclusive and connected information society and achieve the SDGs, which can facilitate the growth of the digital economy;
- 2 to consider the development of principles towards the adoption of strategies in areas such as telecommunication network security, consistent with WSIS Action Line C5;
- 3 to submit contributions to relevant ITU-D study groups and to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS&SDGs on implementing WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs within ITU's mandate;
- 4 to continue to support and collaborate with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ITU-D;
- 5 to engage in the WSIS and SDG processes, in order to reaffirm the need to address remaining challenges of ICT for development to be addressed in the implementation of the vision for WSIS beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

requests the Secretary-General

to bring this resolution to the attention of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022) for consideration and required action, as appropriate, when reviewing Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018),

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

- 1 to submit contributions to relevant ITU-D study groups and to TDAG, where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS&SDG on implementing WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within ITU's mandate;
- 2 to support and collaborate with the Director of BDT in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in ITU-D;
- 3 to submit contributions to CWG-WSIS&SDG.