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| **Telecommunication DevelopmentAdvisory Group (TDAG)****24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| ITU-D CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WSIS OUTCOMES AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT |
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| **Summary:**This document provides an update on the contribution of ITU-D to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account outcomes of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018. **Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), Council Resolution 1332 (Rev. 2016) |

**Background**

1. 2018 has marked an important milestone for the global discussion on the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and contribution of ICTs to the achievement of SDGs. [ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018](https://www.itu.int/web/pp-18/en/), held from 29 October to 16 November 2018 in Dubai, UAE, reconfirmed the mandate of ITU and its contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and achievement of SDGs, drawing attention to the need to ensure that ITU activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented through close alignment with the WSIS process.
2. The [7th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Pages/default.aspx) (WTDC-17), 9-20 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina, established clear links between ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and relevant WSIS Action Lines and SDG goals and targets (Annex One). The mapping of the ITU-D Study Group Questions and WSIS Action Lines and SDGs provides additional guidance on the contribution of the Study Groups to both processes (Annex Two). In this sense all actions carried out by ITU-D are contributing to the achievement of SDGs and the WSIS implementation. They are reported to the ITU Membership through RDFs, TDAG, CWG-WSIS.
3. In addition, flagship activities undertaken by BDT constitute a substantive part of the annual reporting through the *ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS outcomes*. The 2018 edition of this report is available at <https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx>.

**Policy level beyond PP-18**

1. PP-18 reiterated the importance of aligning of WSIS and SDG processes and underlined the role of the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, by establishing clear links between ITU-D Objectives/Outcomes and ITU-D Study Questions, and SDGs and WSIS Action Lines, ITU-D’s role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes and in the contribution to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been significantly strengthened.
2. Following PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014), ITU should continue playing a lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, co-facilitator of WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C11 and partner of WSIS Action Lines C8 and C9, as well as lead of the Partnership on Measuring ICTs for Development. Since 2005, BDT has been playing the role of the main ITU focal point for most of the WSIS Action Lines (including C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C9, C11) and has been leading the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development. Following PP-18 and WTDC-17 outcomes, BDT will continue to do so beyond 2018. Accordingly, with the aim of strengthening the facilitation/implementation process of WSIS Action Lines C2 and C6 – led by BDT – the WSIS Action Line Roadmaps are currently being updated in line with PP-18 outcomes and operational plans and will be presented at the upcoming Council session.
3. PP-18 resolved that ITU should continue its work on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and realization of the WSIS vision beyond 2015, and carrying out those activities that come within its mandate, and participate, together with other stakeholders, as appropriate. In this context, the BDT Director continues to follow a partnership and multistakeholder approach in ITU‑D activities related to its roles in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries.
4. In line with decisions by PP-18, BDT gives high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), this being the physical backbone for all e‑applications, having regard to the Buenos Aires Declaration and Objective 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Also, ITU-D Study Groups pay significant attention to this prioritization, while contributing to the WSIS and SDG processes. Established linkages between all ITU-D Study Group Questions and their contribution to the relevant WSIS Action Lines and SDGs (Annex 2) are an important guiding tool for the Study Groups in their contribution to both processes.
5. PP-18 resolved to strengthencoordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN regional economic commissions and the UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICT. A process that will involve, the ITU regional and area offices.. In this context BDT has been implementing a series of activities leading towards strengthened implementation and contribution to both, WSIS and SDG processes.

**Operational level beyond PP-18**

1. At the operational level, BDT has been contributing to the achievement of the WSIS outcomes. On behalf of ITU, BDT has been acting as Focal Point and Facilitator of Action Line C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure) and C6 (Enabling Environment). BDT has also been implementing several activities in the context of WSIS Action Line C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs), where ITU is the sole facilitator. In coordination with UNDP and UNESCO, BDT has also been acting as interim focal point for WSIS Action Line C4 (Capacity Building). The Bureau has been acting as the official ITU focal point for most of the WSIS Action Lines, including C1, C3, C4, C7 and C11, where ITU is the co-facilitator, and C9, where ITU is a partner. BDT also continues to lead the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, an international, multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators.
2. BDT has been contributing to the preparatory process and the organization of the WSIS Forum ([www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)), which has become the main global event for the coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and a multistakeholder platform for advancing discussion on ICTs and the information society for SDGs. The 2019 edition of the WSIS Forum is scheduled to be held from 8 to 12 April in ITU Headquarters, expecting 3,000-plus stakeholders including over 250 high level leaders of the ICT ecosystem and other sectors such as health, education, environment, etc. In addition to this, in the 2019 edition, BDT will lead several thematic streams of the Forum, while fostering partnership building and project generation. The following lists series of sessions of the WSIS Forum will be led by BDT:
* WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings
* WSIS AL C2: ICT Infrastructure
* WSIS AL C4: Capacity Building
* WSIS AL C5: Cybersecurity (contributing role, SPM leads)
* WSIS AL C6: Enabling Environment
* WSIS AL C7: E-Waste (ITU/UNEP)
* WSIS AL C7: E-Environment (ITU/WMO)
* WSIS AL C7: E-Agriculture (ITU/FAO)
* WSIS AL C7: E-Health (ITU/WHO)
* High Level Dialogues
* ICT Accessibility
* E-waste Coalition
* Annual Meeting of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
* Special track
* Innovation Track @ WSIS Forum
* Regional implementation and partnership building
* Accessibility Track (contributing role, SPM leads)
* ITU-UNESCO Global Hackathon (BDT and SPM lead)
1. Moreover, BDT will also contribute to a series of High Level Interactive Dialogues, WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings for WSIS AL C1 (Role of Governments), C11 (International Cooperation), C7 (e-science, e-learning, e-government), WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meeting as well as several thematic workshops and sessions organized by diverse stakeholders.
2. BDT continues to play a significant role in the review committee of the WSIS Prize process and follow-up activities related to partnership building and exchange of best practices. 18 WSIS Prizes are awarded annually with special recognition of the prize winners for their contribution to the WSIS Action Lines as facilitators. In 2019, WSIS Prizes reached a record number of submissions. Over 1,000 ICT for SDG projects have been reviewed and nominated for the voting phase. With the overall aim of aligning the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighting the crosscutting contribution of ICTs to SDGs and poverty eradication, the WSIS Forum will build upon the WSIS-SDG Matrix. BDT contributes substantially to the WSIS Stocktaking Reports as well as the report on WSIS Success Stories which have been released on an annual basis since 2005.
3. As founder and key leading partner of the Partnership on Measuring ICTs for Development, BDT coordinates the preparation of an annual meeting of the Partnership at the WSIS Forum, in the context of the discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This work significantly contributed to the discussions related to the UNGA Overall Review, in particular in the context of aligning WSIS with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a result, several ICT indicators were included in the SDG monitoring framework and ITU was identified as the custodian agency for collecting 5 SDG indicators.
4. BDT continues to facilitate the international debate on measuring ICT for development. The World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) is the main global forumfor telecommunication and information society measurements. WTIS-18 was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 december 2018. The annual *Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR)*, was launched during WTIS-18. It includes individual economy profiles providing a snapshot of the latest ICT landscape and efforts made to increase ICT access, use and proficiency of their citizens. The analytical report is complemented by a series of statistical tables providing country-level data for the indicators included in the ICT Price Baskets.
5. In line with the instructs of the Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (Res.140), ITU continues to undertake a number of actions in order to strengthencoordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN Regional Economic Commissions and the UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, involving, among others, the ITU Regional and Area Offices..
6. ITU Regional Offices continue contributing to the series of UN Regional Forums for Sustainable Development, held on an annual basis in six regions. A number of thematic sessions, targeted interventions, and exhibitions were organized in 2018 in order to forge multistakeholder partnerships and advance implementation of ICTs for SDGs projects and initiaitves, while aligning WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. The series of meetings that took place in 2018 can be consulted on the page of the [UN Regional Commission](http://www.regionalcommissions.org/regional-forums-on-sustainable-development/) Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. A series of UN Regional Sustainable Development Forums have been also planned for 2019. Apart from the regular contributions of the ITU Regional Offices to those meetings, special sessions have been scheduled with the aim of underlining importance of aligning the WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation, as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125.

17. In addition to the above, ITU Regional Offices, on a regular basis, continue to proactively contribute to the meetings of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanisms and UN Regional Development Groups advocating the enabling role of ICTs for SDGs, advising on the incorporation of ICTs in the UN development assistance frameworks and the projects delivered by other sister agencies, while developing strategic partnerships with regional counterparts within the UN system and other relevant stakeholders. Building upon the process of monitoring the national sustainable development plans and national voluntary reviews on SDGs carried out by Member States, continuous efforts are made in order to strengthen the role of the ICTs at the level of the strategic planning of countries.

18. Moreover, ITU Regional Development Forums (RDFs) with the overall theme of ICTs for Sustainable Development were organized in 2018 in order to provide an open platform for partnership building and coordination of implementation of the Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17 and aiming at contributing to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and achievement of SDGs. RDFs continue to engage regional stakeholders, help in developing partnerships, involve regional/international organizations and UN agencies. Another series of Regional Development Forums has been scheduled for 2019, as presented in TDAG Document 14.

19. As a result of the actions mentioned above, strategic partnerships with sister agencies and UN country teams have been developed with the aim of implementing ICTs for SDGs actions with the the UN's "Delivering as One" approach. The following presents some of the examples of the actions underway in the different regions:

* The ITU Regional Office for Africa and UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, launched African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI) 2018-2022, which consists of a four-year programme to train and empower girls and young women aged 17 to 20 years old with ICT skills.
* The ITU Office for Europe and the ILO Office for Central and Eastern Europe worked together on a joint initiative to strengthen Digital Skills as the Enabler for Digital Economy in the Western Balkans. Moreover, a National Review on ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystem carried out in Montenegro engaged UN Country Team in order to ensure sustainability of action at the country level after review.
* In Americas ITU, FAO and Compete Caribbean concluded an agreement to collaborate on a project to develop a Regional e-Agriculture Strategy for the Caribbean and national e-Agriculture Strategies for four (4) countries.

**Conclusions**

1. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the BDT activities contributing to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with WTDC-17.
2. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the preparatory processes related to the WSIS Forums, WSIS Stocktaking, and WSIS Prizes.
3. At the national level, the ITU membership is encouraged to mainstream ICTs in the sustainable development plans and UN development assistance frameworks as well as consider supporting ITU’s efforts in delivering on ICTs for SDGs through UN’s “Delivering as One” approach, taking into account ITU’s core competencies and mandate.
4. Member States are invited to reinforce their capacities in collection of statistics and indicators required for SDG measurement and ICTs for Development Index.
5. At the regional level, all stakeholders are invited to engage in the preparations of the Regional Development Forums, UN Forums on Sustainable Development, specific regional WSIS/SDG events and other events, highlighting importance of ICT for SDGs and alignment between WSIS and SDG processes and taking into account the results of WTDC-17.
6. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the BDT activities with the aim of developing partnerships and contributing to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of SDGs, including the implementation of Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17; this includes facilitation of engagement of stakeholders from other sectors than ICTs/Telecommunications.
7. The ITU membership is encouraged to build upon the assistance provided to countries in the field of digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy, as well as advances in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and achievement of SDGs.
8. The ITU membership is invited to submit contributions to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and to the relevant ITU-D study groups , where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS on implementing WSIS outcomes within ITU's mandate, taking into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**ANNEX 1**

**ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023:
Objectives, Outcomes, SDGs and WSIS Action Lines**

| Objectives | D.1 Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues | D.2 Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs  | D.3 Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development  | D.4 Inclusive digital society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development  |
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| Outcomes | **D.1-1**: Enhanced review and increased level of agreement on the draft ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Declaration, and the WTDC Action Plan.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11**D.1-2**: Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan and of the WSIS Plan of Action.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11**D.1-3**: Enhanced knowledge-sharing, dialogue and partnership among ITU Membership on telecommunication/ICT issues.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 **D.1-4:** Enhanced process and implementation of telecommunications/ICT development projects and regional initiatives.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 **D.1.5**: Facilitation of agreement to cooperate on telecommunication/ICT development programmes between Member States, and between Member States and other stakeholders in the ICT ecosystem, based on request from involved ITU Member StatesContributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 | **D.2-1**: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C9, and C11**D.2-2**: Strengthened Member States’ capacity to effectively share information, find solutions, and respond to threats to cybersecurity and to develop and implement national strategies and capabilities, including capacity building, encourage national, regional and international cooperation toward enhanced engagement among Member States and relevant players.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 4, 9, 11, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C5**D.2-3**: Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunication/ICT for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications, and support cooperation in this area.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 11 and 13 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C2 and C7 | **D.3-1**: Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C6**D.3-2:** Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce high-quality, internationally comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs based on agreed standards and methodologies.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 - 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 - C11 **D.3-3**: Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C4**D.3-4:** Strengthened ITU Membership capacity to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private, and public-private partnerships. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, and C11 | **D-4-1**: Improved access to and use of telecommunication/ICT in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C2 and C6 and C7**D.4-2**: Improved ITU Membership capacity to accelerate economic and social development by leveraging and using new technologies and telecommunication/ICT services and applications.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C7**D.4-3:** Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 4, 5, 8, 10 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8 and C9**D.4-4:** Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation and the use of green/renewable energy. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 3, 5, 11, 12 and 13Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C7 |

**ANNEX 2**

**ITU-D Study Groups Questions (2018-2021) and the Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Achieving SDGs**

**SG2: ICT services and applications for the promotion of sustainable development**

**SG1: Enabling environment for the development of telecommunications/ICTs**



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