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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COMPREHENSIVE REPORT DETAILING THE ACTIVITIES, ACTIONS, AND ENGAGEMENTS THAT THE UNION IS UNDERTAKING IN CONTEXT OF THE WSIS IMPLEMENTATION  AND 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | |

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| Summary  This report provides information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.  Action required  The Council is invited **to consider** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125), [A/RES/70/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1), [A/71/212](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212), [A/70/299](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299), [A/70/684](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684); [UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2016/22](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2016/22), [E/RES/2017/22](http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2017d22_en.pdf); [PP Resolutions 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf), [172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/council/groups/wsis/docs/resolutions/PP10-Res-172.pdf); [Council Resolutions 1332 (Modified 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en), [1336 (Modified 2015)](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en); [WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en), [WTSA Resolution 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/res/T-RES-T.75-2016-PDF-E.pdf); [*Reports of 18th to 31st CWG WSIS meeting*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*s;* [*WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*Final WSIS Target Review*](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/wsisreview2014/WSIS2014_review.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Report; ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014).*](https://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/docs/WSIS-plus-10.pdf) |

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The UNGA overall review on the implementation of WSIS resulted in a UNGA Resolution A/70/125 that was adopted on 16 December 2015. The resolution provides guidance on the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes till 2025. In particular it calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para. 5) and requests all stakeholders to integrate ICTs into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and requests UN entities facilitating WSIS Action Lines (ALs) to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda (para. 12). In line with the call of UNGA for a close alignment between WSIS and SDG processes, Council-16 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 Within ITU, the effective coordination of ITU’s strategies and activities in relation to WSIS has been ensured by a SDGs-WSIS Task Force that is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General. Taking into account resolves of Resolution 1332, the terms of reference of the SDGs-WSIS Task Force have been amended incorporating coordination on the activities of ITU related to SDGs. In addition, the Council Working Group on WSIS facilitates membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and to elaborate proposals to the Council that may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society (Resolution 140).

1.3 This report provides information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also highlights the actions taken during the 7th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17). In 2016 the ITU-T Sector updated Resolution 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016) entitled the “ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector’s contribution in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 2. ITU’s activities in relationship to the WSIS implementation

2.1 In line with the Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), on the annual basis, ITU elaborates a comprehensive report on [*ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes*](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx)*,* providing an overview of ITU activities and projects undertaken in the context of the implementation of WSIS Outcomes, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2.2 With the aim of highlighting importance of the WSIS AL C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure), AL C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs), and AL C6 (Enabling Environment) – where ITU is playing the role of sole facilitator and implementer –and their contribution to the SDGs, the [WSIS Action Lines Roadmaps](http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx) were updated in 2016 and have been updated in accordance to the outcomes of the WTDC 17. Direct links between the activities and the strategic goals and relevant resolutions, programmes and initiatives of ITU are highlighted and also clearly display the linkages with the SDGs.

2.3 Council-16 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps to achieve the 2030 Agenda, within ITU’s mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the [WSIS-SDG Matrix](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) developed by UN Agencies, working through the CWG-WSIS. To this end, ITU-led WSIS activities, including WSIS Forum, [WSIS Stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking), [WSIS Prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) have been aligned to the SDGs. In addition, ITU continues to coordinate the [*WSIS Action Lines and SDG Matrix*](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) a tool developed by a number of United Nations agencies to map how ICTs may contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

2.4 The [WSIS Forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum), since 2015, builds upon the WSIS-SDG Matrix, linking its agenda and outcomes to the SDGs, thereby providing a multistakeholder contribution to the UN High Level Political Forum. The main theme of the WSIS Forum 2018 is Leveraging ICTs to Build Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[[1]](#footnote-1)

2.5 The [Partnership on measuring ICTs for Development](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx), since inception, has guided policy-makers in producing ICT statistics that are crucial to decision-making, including the identification of a core list of ICT indicators and methodologies to collect these indicators.

2.6 ITU is the rotational chair of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) and has been working closely with UNGIS members to implement the action of the UNGA Resolution A/70/125. ITU took over the Chairmanship of UNGIS in 2017. One of the items for the work-plan follow up is para. 12 of UNGA Resolution A/70/125.

## 3. ITU’s activities in relationship to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3.1 In line with the Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), and taking into account the overall mandate of ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the Roadmap for ITU actions related to the SDGs remains a living document giving course to ITU actions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Following the roadmap, and the Membership guidance at the 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, and 32nd meetings of CWG-WSIS, and since Council-16, a series of actions have been implemented.

**A. Global Follow-up and Review: High-level Political Forum**

ITU participated in the 2017 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, a detail list of activities and inputs is contained in document [WG-WSIS-31/12-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0012/en) presented to the 31st meeting of the CWG-WSIS in September 2017. An input for HLPF 2018 is now under preparation.

**B. Activities and actions taken in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

During the first meeting of the WG-WSIS (February 2016) after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the following documents were shared highlighting the planned linkages between the Sectors/General Secretariat and the SDGs:

* [Contribution by the BDT Director ITU-D : Contribution to the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Achievement of its Goals and Targets](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0020/en)
* [Contribution by the TSB Director: Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals to ITU-T](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0016/en)
* [Connect 2020 Linkages with the SDGs](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0018/en)
* [Update on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0012/en)

Since Council 2016, measures have been taken to report on the contribution of ITU to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the ITU Annual Report (please refer to the Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan and Activities of the Union/ITU Annual Progress Report [C17/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0035/en), also available online at [www.itu.int/annual-report-2016](http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx)). All updated information from this report has also been introduced in the [ITU SDG Mapping tool](https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/SDG/#/home/home-page).

ITU activities contributing to the 2030 Agenda are also reflected in the Four-year rolling Operational Plans of the 3 Sectors and the GS ([Resolution 1385](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0125/en) - Four-year rolling Operational Plans for the ITU-R, ITU-T, ITU-D, and the General Secretariat for 2018-2021:

* + Radiocommunication Sector, as presented in Document [C17/28(Rev1)](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0028/en);
  + Telecommunication Standardization Sector, as presented in Document [C17/29](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0029/en);
  + Telecommunication Development Sector, as presented in Document [C17/30(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0030/en),
  + General Secretariat, as presented in Document [C17/31](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0031/en)).

The Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plans is developing the draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 taking into consideration the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The group proposes a representation of the linkage of the ITU Strategic Goals and key activities to the 17 SDGs as well as the WSIS ALs, based on the mapping exercise carried out as part of the development of the [ITU SDG Mapping Tool](https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/SDG/#/home/home-page). The draft ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlights the catalytic role of ICTs as a key enabler for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Additional information on the **ITU SDGs Mapping Tool** and the **Communications activities** highlighting the SDGs is available in document [WG-WSIS-31/12-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0012/en)

## 4 ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017

4.1 2017 has marked an important milestone for the global discussion on the contribution of the ICT to the achievement of SDGs. 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, was held under the overall theme of “ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs). WTDC-17 provided a unique opportunity for the ITU Membership to discuss the future of the telecommunications and information and communication technologies sector and its contribution to the sustainable development

4.2 The WTDC-17 adopted the [Buenos Aires Declaration](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0117/en), Contribution of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) to the ITU Strategic Plan and [Buenos Aires Action Plan (BaAP)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en). WTDC-17 agreed on ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and their contribution to the achievement of SDGs and WSIS Action Lines. In this sense all actions carried out by ITU-D are contributing to SDG and WSIS implementation. WTDC-17 underlined the role of WSIS framework as the foundation through which the ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4.3 The delegates to the WTDC-17 have declared their commitment to accelerate the expansion and use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services for building and further developing the information society and bridging the digital divide, the timely implementation of WSIS Action Lines and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets.

## 5 Conclusions

5.1 ITU, being the UN Agency for the ICTs, plays an important role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As described in this document, and following the guidance of the ITU Membership, further efforts are being made by the Sectors and the General Secretariat to leverage the enabling role of ICTs for SDGs thereby ensuring a close alignment between the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. As per the report of the 32nd meeting of the WG-WSIS, the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 are to be included when available. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)