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| Report by ITU Secretary General | |
| comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to 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 70/125, A/70/1, A/71/212, A/70/299, and A/70/684; UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2016/22, Plenipotentiary Conference* [*Resolution 140*](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool) *(Busan, 2014) and* [*172*](http://www.itu.int/ict4sdg) *(Guadalajara, 2010); Council Resolution* [*1332*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-160525-TD-GEN-0011/en) *and* [*1336*](http://www.itu.int/en/itunews/Documents/2017/2017-03/2017_ITUNews03-en.pdf)*; WTSA-16 Resolution* [*75*](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2016)*; Reports of 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th CWG-WSIS meetings; WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes; WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015; Final WSIS Target Review; WSIS+10 Report: ITU’s Ten Year contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014); Annual Reports (2010-2016) on ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.* |

**1. Introduction**

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 request UN entities facilitating WSIS Action Lines to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, (para.12). ICTs are identified as targets in the SDGs for education, gender equality, infrastructure (universal and affordable access to the internet) and in the implementation goal as a cross cutting tool to be utilized for the achievement of all of the SDGs. The effective implementation of the WSIS Action Lines can help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. To that end, the WSIS SDGs Matrix, developed by the UN Action line Facilitators, clearly shows the linkage between each Action line and the 17 SDGs and provides rationale for each.

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.

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 7th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), 9-20 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina, held under overall theme of “ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs) that marked an important milestone in the global discussion of the ITU Membership on the future of the telecommunication and information and communication technologies sector and its contribution to the sustainable development.

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

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,* 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. The 2017 edition of the report provides detailed information on the key WSIS-related initiatives and activities carried out by the three sectors of the Union (Standardization, Radiocommunication and the Development Sectors) and the General Secretariat, at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS Process, in particular:

* Lead facilitator (along with UNESCO and UNDP) in coordinating the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action;
* Lead coordinator and organizer of the annual WSIS Forum, including WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meeting;
* Facilitator of Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs); upon the UNDP’s request, ITU accepted to play the role of the Facilitator of Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment);
* Co-facilitator of Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7 and C11; and partner for C8 and C9;
* Rotating chair of the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS);
* Lead and steering committee member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Measurement;
* Facilitator of the WSIS Stocktaking process;
* Initiator and facilitator of the WSIS Project Prize;
* Implementation of other WSIS outcomes.

With the aim of highlighting importance of the WSIS Action Lines 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 were updated in 2016 and have been updated in accordance to the outcomes of the WTDC 17. They provide a broad vision and detailed overview of the activities planned within the mandate of the Union also showing clear linkages with the SDGs. These Roadmaps are developed upon the operational plans of sectors to serve as a quick reference and guiding tool on ITU’s efforts on WSIS Action Lines as facilitator and implementer. 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. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, and C6 are available at <http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx>

The annual reports on the *ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes* has been submitted to the Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG-WSIS) for information and are considered as the official submissions from ITU for different internal and external meetings related to the WSIS process, including UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the High –Level Political Forum every year. The 2017 Report as well as the previouseditions of the *ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes* Reports are available at:   
[http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf)

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 developed by UN Agencies, working through the CWG-WSIS.

To this end ITU-led WSIS activities, including WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes have been aligned to the SDGs. In addition ITU continues to coordinate the *WSIS Action Lines and SDG Matrix*([www.wsis.org/sdgs](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0035/en)), a tool developed by a number of United Nations agencies to map how ICTs may contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. The Matrix serves as an easy reference for stakeholders engaged in shaping the future of both the SDGs and the WSIS processes beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) continues collecting information on actions, projects, programmes, and initiatives implemented by all stakeholders related to WSIS and the SDGs, while providing concrete proof of impact of particular WSIS Action Lines on SDGs, transforming the WSIS-SDG Matrix into an evidence-based policy guide for all WSIS Stakeholders.

The WSIS Forum builds upon the WSIS-SDG Matrix, linking its agenda and outcomes to the SDGs ([www.wsis.org/forum](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en)), thereby providing a multistakeholder contribution to the UN High Level Political Forum. The [WSIS Forum 2017 WSIS Action- Lines and SDGs Matrix](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Documents/wf17/WSISForum2017_WSIS-SDGsMatrix.pdf) maps the outcomes of all the workshops and action line meetings held at the WSIS Forum highlighting their linkages with specific WSIS AL and SDGs. A document [“Implementation of WSIS Action Lines for Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World](http://www.itu.int/council/groups/wsis/docs/resolutions/PP10-Res-172.pdf)” was coordinated by the ITU in collaboration with UN Agencies facilitating the WSIS Action Lines aimed at highlighting the contribution of each WSIS AL towards the theme of HLPF 2017,

The Partnership on measuring ICTs for Development, 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. It helps developing countries collect ICT statistics, particularly through capacity-building and hands-on training for national statistical offices, and collects and disseminates information society statistics. Partnership Task Group on ICT for SDGs is the main activity of the Partnership between 2017 to Sept 2018 . The main objective of the task group on ICT for SDGs is to propose a thematic list of ICT indicators that could be used to measure ICT availability and use in sectors relevant to the SDGs that are not covered in the SDG indicators framework. The TG on ICT for SDGs is co-lead by ITU and UIS.

ITU took over the Chairmanship of UNGIS in 2017. At its annual gathering at the WSIS Forum 2017, the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) held its 14th High-level and Working-Level meetings. During the working-level meeting the annual rolling work plan was prepared and endorsed by the members. One of the items for the work-plan follow up is para 12 of Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, adopted on 16 December 2015. A calendar of UNGIS member’s events and a joint contribution to the HLPF 2018 are some of the tasks ITU is leading as the chairman of UNGIS.

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

In line with the Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), and taking into account the overall mandate of the 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 31st and 32nd meetings of CWG-WSIS, since Council-16, a series of actions have been implemented, including the updating of the Terms of reference of the WSIS Task Force.

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

ITU participated in the 2017 High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), held from 10-20 July at the UN Headquarters in New York. A detail list of activities and inputs is contained in document [WG-WSIS-31/12-E](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool) presented to the 31st meeting of the CWG-WSIS in September 2017

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

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 (see Section C below).

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](http://www.wsis.org/sdgs) - 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)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en);
  + Telecommunication Standardization Sector, as presented in Document [C17/29](http://www.wsis.org/forum);
  + 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/annual-report-2016)).

The Council Working Group on Strategic and Financial Plans is taking into consideration the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, for the elaboration of the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. The group discusses different proposed approaches to present the linkage of the ITU’s Strategic Goals and Objectives to the SDGs, as well as the WSIS Action Lines, based on the mapping exercise carried out as part of the development of the ITU SDG Mapping Tool. The strategic plan will also highlight the catalytic role of ICTs as a key enabler for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, notable activities of ITU collaborating with other UN Agencies within the SDG framework include:

* ITU/UNIDO: Joint Declaration on the 25th of April 2017, focused on SDG 9.
  + On the 27th of November the Secretary-General made a statement at UNIDO's General Conference re-enforcing collaboration on the SDGs. The theme of UNIDO’s General Conference 17 is Partnering for Impact, Achieving the SDGs.
* ITU/FAO Collaboration Agreement acting on i) that WSIS designated ITU and FAO as co-Facilitator of WSIS Action Lines c7 on ICT Applications (including e-agriculture) and, ii) whereas FAO and ITU wish to jointly support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, recognising the relevant role and great potential that connectivity, information systems, devices and digital content have into promoting progress in the social, economic and cultural sectors of humankind, reducing inequality and for the democratization of knowledge.
* UNOG: Ongoing participation in UNOG SDG activities leveraging the potential of International Geneva to contribute to the SDGs, including HLPF debriefs and contribution to the UNOG SDG mapping exercise.

C. **Update on the roadmap on SDGs**

* The [ITU SDG Mapping Tool](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0031/en) ([https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool](file:///C:/Users/sah/Documents/Council%202018/Implementation%20of%20WSIS%20Action%20Lines%20for%20Eradicating%20Poverty%20and%20Promoting%20Prosperity%20in%20a%20Changing%20World)) has been updated with the latest information from the ITU Annual Report ([C17/35](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0028/en)), providing a more comprehensive visual overview of the ITU contribution to the SDGs.
* The [SDG Mapping Tool](http://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0029/en) is being further developed, including:
  + Significant improvements in the storage of data;
  + Development of a more user-friendly data entry interface;
  + Development of an interactive world map to demonstrate coverage of ITU activities
  + Integration with the WSIS Stocktaking database
* Communications heavily highlight the SDGs.
  + [ITU News](http://www.itu.int/en/itunews/Pages/default.aspx) dedicated an edition of the magazine entirely on ICT4SDG entitled “[How ICTs are accelerating the SDGs](https://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool)”. Includes many articles based on a fact-finding mission to South-East Asia to highlight the role of ICTs in achieving the SDGs with concrete examples from the field.
  + The [ICT4SDG microsite](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0125/en) includes regular updates on the ITU activities on the SDGs and other relevant content on the SDGs
  + The blogs: Depending on events, trends and content availability 40 to 80% of blog entries directly reference the SDGs.
  + All ICT4SDG posters are available for members to use and adapt to their needs.
  + Social media: The hashtag #ICT4SDG has had since February 2017, 9966 tweets from 4447 contributors, reaching 44,106,324 accounts

**4 ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017**

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

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.

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**

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.