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| **Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG 35th meeting – Geneva, 6-7 February 2020** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-35/14-E** |
| **7 February 2020** |
| **English only** |
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| **ITU Input to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”** | |

Background

The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (“SDG Summit”) resulted in the adoption of a Political Declaration that proclaimed a decade for action and delivery for sustainable development and outlined ten cross-cutting areas for accelerated action for the achievement of the SDGs. The General Assembly decided in November 2019 that the theme for the 2020 session of the HLPF and the Economic and Social Council will be “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

Request:

President of the ECOSOC is requesting ITU Council to provide a focused input to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme. This input should highlight ITU Council’s views on how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways so as to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Identify four or five action points that the HLPF could address in its ministerial declaration.

Timeline:

* 7th February: Discussion in CWG WSIS&SDGs
* 7th February-17 February: WSIS Taskforce to conduct a consultation with the Sectors to identify the five action points to be submitted by ITU.
* 17 February- 24 February: Secretariat to submit the identified action points to the CWG website for comments by Membership.
* 24 February – 2nd March: Consolidation and finalization of topics
* 2nd March -16 March- Approval and Signature of letter to be submitted by ITU Council Chair to the Chairman of the ECOSOC

Some topics for Food for thought for 7th February

* **Digital divide,** in particular actions towards achieving SDG target 9.C “Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”.

* **Gender digital divide;** New data released by ITU Facts and figures 2019 reveal that in most countries worldwide women are still trailing men in benefiting from the transformational power of digital technologies. This focused action would be in line with efforts towards achieving SDG 5.B “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women”.
* **Digital literary/skills, connecting schools:**  In line with the call in the Political declaration to “promote and support quality education and lifelong learning to ensure that all children, youth and adults are empowered with the relevant knowledge and skills to shape more resilient, inclusive and sustainable societies that are able to adapt to rapid technological change. We will foster international cooperation to support developing countries in addressing their constraints in access to technologies and education”;
* **Digital infrastructure** **and Enabling Environment** : Undertaking substantial changes to existing infrastructure, policies, regulations and norms so as to transit toward food and nutrition systems that foster universal good health and eliminate malnutrition while minimizing environmental impacts;
* **Security in the use of ICTs** : Strengthening effective, accountable and transparent institutions and ensuring more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes for more integrated solutions, and addressing interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets;

**Digital financial inclusion**: Reducing inequalities in wealth and income through sustainable and just economies, providing adequate and well-directed financing, an enabling environment for sustainable investments and delivering on commitments to international cooperation, aligned to longer-term sustainability pathways and solving challenges through cooperation and partnerships at all levels;