|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: ADM 16** | **Document C22/38-E** |
| **23 November 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 191 (REV. DUBAI, 2018) “STRATEGY FOR THE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AMONG THE THREE SECTORS OF THE UNION” | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  This document presents a report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-191-E.pdf)*,* [*C20/38*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0038/en), [*C21/38*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0038/en)*,* [*C21/INF/11*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0011/en) |

1. **Introduction**

Following the revision of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the “Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union”, regular reporting on intersectoral coordination of activities has been provided to the Council, the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), as well as to all three Sector advisory groups. Mechanisms and efforts to continue to improve intersectoral coordination were further enhanced, and closer coordination between the secretariat’s Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and the membership’s Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) was accomplished.

1. **Coordination within the secretariat**
   1. The Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) was established to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoid internal duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. The Terms of Reference of the ISC-TF were specified in [Service Order No. 16/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0019/en).
   2. The ISC-TF held three meetings (as of 9 November 2021) since its previous report to the Virtual Consultation of Councillors, 8-18 June 2021 (C21/VCC-1), and 42 in total since its inception in March 2015. The ISC-TF is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General with the participation of the Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux; the Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat; the Inter-sectoral Focal Points responsible for specific thematic areas; the Regional Directors; as an observer, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit; and at the invitation of the Chairman, the Chiefs of Departments of the Bureaux.
   3. The areas of intersectoral interest coordinated by ISC-TF include the following topics: Accessibility, Emerging Trends and Artificial Intelligence, Bridging the Standards Gap, Communications and Web Editorial, Community Networks, Emergency Telecommunications, Environment and Smart Sustainable Communities, Events Coordination, Gender, Geospatial Activities, Membership, Resource Mobilization and SMEs, and Multilingualism.
   4. Since the last report to C21/VCC-1, the Task Force continued to:

* facilitate the exchange of information among the Sectors and the General Secretariat on the above-mentioned thematic areas by updating the members of the Task Force on the developments and the progress achieved in each area;
* discuss and propose solutions for the key issues raised by the focal points, escalating the issues if decisions could not be taken or resolved at the focal point level;
* leverage the participation and contribution of the Regional Offices, which have been participating to the ISC-TF discussions;
* coordinate ITU’s participation in conferences and fora with the aim to rationalize ITU’s delegation/presence whilst ensuring intersectoral interests are represented;
* facilitate better coordination in the organization of ITU events and meetings, through the work carried out in that particular area; and
* coordinate the process of publishing and updating information on ITU’s work on the thematic areas on the relevant ITU webpages, in an open and transparent way, including consolidated information on intersectoral activities under the common [webpage on Intersectoral Coordination](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx);
  1. In addition, the group achieved the following outcomes during this period:
* *Inter-sectoral coordination strategy*: the secretariat continued the efforts to further improve the current model by focusing on the common thematic areas of work, as presented in the ITU Annual Report (Document C22/35); as well as to coordinate with the ISCG, by identifying “themes” where all actors could be involved and work together to propose methods of improved collaboration (related information is presented on the Section on ISCG below);
* *Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force Report:* a report of the ISC-TF, by thematic areas of work, is now available, after each Task Force meeting, in the Intersectoral Coordination webpage, and can be access by means of the ITU User Account with TIES access;
* *Remote participation*: the Zoom platform has been integrated with the ITU’s registration, authentication, and access control system (CRM), ensuring global access by means of the ITU User Account. Consequently, ITU has started to use the Zoom platform for all virtual events (e.g. C21/VCC-1, ISCG, advisory groups’ meetings). TSB will continue to use two different platforms (Zoom and MyMeetings) due to the number of events in parallel for which the MyMeetings platform does not require multiple licenses. All ITU events can be accessed through the [Events Overview](https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/default.aspx) portal;
* *Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU)*: all recommendations received are endorsed and supported by the Task Force and a complete report on its implementation will be presented to the CWG-FHR in January 2022;
* *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)*: a dashboard has been developed containing information on the MoUs having financial and/or strategic implications for the Union*;*
* *ITU risk management framework and ITU Compliance Dashboard*: following the implementation of the Action Plan to strengthen the ITU risk management framework, the ITU-wide risk register is operational and will be regularly updated by the risk management focal points of the Bureaux and the departments. of the General Secretariat. Complementing the ITU Risk Register, the ITU Compliance Dashboard monitors the implementation of all the recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies (External Audit, IMAC, JIU and Internal Audit), and has also been enriched to monitor the recommended follow-up action from the PWC Forensic Review report;
* *Accessibility:* the ITU Accessibility Policy was adopted by C21/VCC-1, and an Accessibility Strategy and a Workplan for 2021-2022 been developed. The bidding process to select providers of captioning services has been finalized in November 2021 under the coordination of the ISC-TF (it was done jointly with UNOG). The ISC-TF has coordinated the process to reporting to UNDIS. ITU indicators under this framework have shown significant improvement;
* *Communications and Web Editorial:* a consulting process has been initiated to develop the new OneITU website, being PP-22 and TDAG the proposed sites to start working with;
* *Geospatial Activities:* ITU has been appointed in the Steering Committee of the UN Geospatial Network for a second term and continues to participate in the United Nations Committee of experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM);
* *Membership, Resource Mobilization, SMEs:* the Sponsorship Coordination Team proposed recommended actions to respond to the sponsorship and audit report, such as including training, improvements in data and reporting, and a new service order on due diligence review of non-ITU members. The subgroup will continue also to work on marketing, outreach, and engagement to maintain net growth in membership; and to review the lists of thousands of experts who have joined virtual events and identify prospects for membership and cross-selling of publications to boost revenues;
* *Multilingualism:* a draft Policy Framework on Multilingualism in ITU will be presented to CWG-Lang in January 2022;
* *Webpages by theme:* activities across ITU are consolidated and updated on [Emergency Telecommunications](https://www.itu.int/en/action/emergency/Pages/default.aspx), [Environment and climate change](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/default.aspx), [Gender Equality and Mainstreaming](https://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Pages/default.aspx) (related information is presented in document [C22/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0035/en));
* *New initiative:* a Conference Coordination Group (CCG) was created, within the ITU secretariat, to improve cooperation, coordination, and harmonization in the preparation of the main conferences planned for 2022;
* *Strategic Plan for the Union 2024-2027*: a secretariat Inter-sectoral Working Group, chaired by the Director of the BR, has been established to compile the inputs from the bureaux and the GS and support the work of the CWG for the Strategic and Financial Plans which was established by C21-VCC-1.

1. **Membership coordination**
   1. The [Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx) on issues of mutual interest was established jointly by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).
   2. ISCG identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally, and considers an updated list (prepared by the secretariat) containing areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference. ISCG also identifies the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activities among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, on issues of mutual interest.
   3. The ISCG held two meetings in 2021. The group has reported to the three Sector advisory groups during this period.
   4. ISCG agreed on the idea of identifying “themes” for intersectoral coordination, where all actors (including Sector advisory groups, ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, study group counsellors and the secretariat) would be involved in identifying methods of improved collaboration, aimed at avoiding duplication of work and proposing the way forward.
   5. In the framework of the climate change pilot theme, the ITU secretariat presented an information document with the latest developments on ITU’s internal work to become a greener organization (information related to this thematic area of work is presented on the Section on ISC-TF above).
   6. During its meeting in March 2021, the ISCG agreed on addressing “Accessibility” as a new theme to be considered by the group, and for the members to identifying methods of improved and strengthen collaboration. The secretariat has reported on the activities related to accessibility and how they are been coordinated within the ISC-TF. In particular, an ITU Accessibility Strategy is being put in place to complement the adopted ITU Accessibility Policy.
   7. The ISCG also requested the secretariat to continue to report on other themes such as the ITU new website development, including the harmonization of the layout of the three advisory groups’ websites, in particular, the place where to find the ISCG webpage. Also requested harmonizing the process to submit contributions which differs between the three Sectors.
   8. The use of automatic translation for documents is another matter of interest, so it was requested to the ISC-TF Focal Point for Multilingualism to prepare a report for the next ISCG meeting in 2022.
   9. The ISCG also keeps the Mapping Tables updated and posted in its website, including the mapping of resolutions for preparing the Plenipotentiary Conference. The purpose of the mapping work is to identify topics of mutual interest and the entities responsible for those topics across the three Sectors of the Union. The result of the mapping work functions as a guide to facilitate smoother information exchange within the Union in connection with the identified topics of mutual interest.
   10. Among other themes proposed to be considered by the ISCG, there are:

* harmonizing the way to access and to share documents on intersectoral activities among the three Sectors. Today documents related to intersectoral activities can be posted in the ISCG webpage and a link can be generated so all members can be able to access by means of their ITU User Account with TIES Access, independently of the members’ category and/or affiliation;
* during the last RAG meeting it was proposed to analyse how to harmonize guidelines to indicate the main achievements/deliverables by the ITU-R and ITU-T Sectors to be addressed to ITU-D in support of their activities, on the topics which are of particular interest for developing countries;
* during the TDAG meeting it was also proposed to have conformance and interoperability as a theme to be addressed by the ISCG.
* resource sharing implications of inter-sectoral activities;

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_