|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2022 Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C22/60-E** |
| **18 February 2022** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG | |
| FOUR-YEAR REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP  ON WSIS&SDG SINCE PP-18 | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  This report summarizes the main outcomes of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) meetings after PP-18.  Action required  The Council is invited **to consider** this report and **to submit** its recommendations to the Plenipotentiary Conference as appropriate.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Plenipotentiary Conference Decision 11 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/DEC-011-E.pdf)[*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx) |

1. **Introduction**
   1. The WG-WSIS was created in 2002 ([Resolution 1196](http://www.itu.int/md/S02-CL-C-0081/e)). During PP-18, the WG-WSIS was renamed to CWG-WSIS&SDG to facilitate all membership inputs and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and its activities to help achieve the SDGs.
   2. The work of the CWG-WSIS&SDG is based on the [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en) and conducted in line with [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf)),. PP-18 also considered that CWG-WSIS&SDG has proven itself a successful mechanism for facilitating the input of Member States related to the ITU’s role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.
   3. The CWG-WSIS&SDG is open to all ITU Member States and Sector Members and is chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), and the Vice-Chairmen Ms Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan), Ms Renata Santoyo (replacing Mr. Mario Canazza) (Brazil), Mr. Cai Guolei (China), Prof. Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Wojciech Berezowski (Poland), Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), and Mr. Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia).
   4. The [full 4-Year Report on the Group’s activities to Council 2022 and PP-22](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/38-WSIS%26SDGs/Chairman%27s_Report_on_4_year_CWG_WSISSDG_Activities_31Jan.docx) was considered by the CWG-WSIS&SDG and submitted to the Council-22.
2. **CWG-WSIS&SDG activities**
3. The CWG-WSIS&SDG facilitated inputs from membership on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its regular meetings and circular letters, questionnaires or other appropriate methods of query.
4. The CWG-WSIS&SDG continued to monitor and evaluate on a yearly basis the actions taken by the ITU with respect to implementation of WSIS outcomes and achieving SDGs. The ITU Secretary General and the Directors of the Bureaux have regularly informed the CWG-WSIS&SDG and Council on the work carried out to implement the decisions under [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf)). About 100 documents have been submitted by the Secretariat to these meetings that are listed in the summaries of the meetings available on the [CWG-WSIS&SDG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx).
5. Since PP-18, the CWG-WSIS&SDG held six meetings and considered 103 documents. The following is a list of documents from the CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings after PP-18:
   1. [33rd Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C/en); held from 30-31 January 2019, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/33](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0017/en));
   2. [34th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS34-C/en); held from 25 September 2019, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/34](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS34-C-0022/en));
   3. [35th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C/en); held from 6-7 February 2020, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C-0016/en));
   4. [36th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C/en); held from 28-29 January 2021, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/36](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0020/en));
   5. [37th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C/en); held from 22-23 September 2021, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/37](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS37-C-0017/en));
   6. [38th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C/en); held from 19-20 January 2022, (Summary [CWG-WSIS&SDG/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0018/en));
6. Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG were submitted to each session of the ITU Council, providing substantial guidance that facilitated decision making processes, as listed below. More than 150 recommendations have been endorsed by Council since PP-18.
   1. ITU Council 2019 took note of the Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 18 (Document [C19/8-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0008/en)), endorsed its recommendations and approved Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019) - ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Document [C19/137](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en)),
   2. Virtual consultations of councillors in 2020-2021 took note of the Reports on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities (Document [C20/8-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0008/en)) (Document [C21/8-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0008/en)) and endorsed them through consultation by correspondence,
   3. The Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 21 was submitted to the ITU Council 2022 for consideration of endorsement.
7. The all-aforementioned outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 18 are reflecting the appreciated contributions forwarded to the Group for considerations and discussions. The following recommendation made by the Group are included in the outcomes:
   1. The Group considered and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to the CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings and made the recommendations on the following items:
      1. Updates on WSIS&SDG-related UN processes
      2. WSIS Forum
      3. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
      4. WSIS-SDG Matrix
      5. WSIS Stocktaking
      6. WSIS Prizes
      7. WSIS Gateway
      8. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, C6
      9. UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)
      10. Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes
      11. ITU Sector Study Groups for the WSIS and SDG Process
      12. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
      13. WSIS Fund in Trust
      14. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development
      15. WSIS Activities related to COVID-19 Response
8. ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following documents were considered at the CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings:
   1. ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2019-2022
   2. [Outcomes of the ITU activities towards High Level Political Forum 2019](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS34-C-0016/)
   3. [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF): Political Declaration](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS34-C-0013/)
   4. [Roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](file:///C:\Users\stankovic\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\0YXDZ1LM\S19-CWGWSIS34-C-0012) (34th CWG-WSIS&SDG Meeting), and updated [Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](file:///C:\Users\stankovic\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\0YXDZ1LM\S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014) (38th CWG-WSIS&SDG Meeting)
   5. [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2021](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS37-C-0012/en) (37th CWG-WSIS&SDG Meeting)
   6. [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"](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C-0014/en)
   7. Discussion on the Political declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly ([Letter: Input to HLPF 2020](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-INF-0001/en))
9. The Group appreciated the ITU activities towards HLPF annual meetings, and the reports presented by the Secretariat. All observations and recommendations by the Group are available in the outcomes of CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings. Responding to the letters from President of the ECOSOC requesting ITU Council to provide input to the HLPFs and ECOSOC on the proposed themes, following on the Group’s discussion and shared comments, the reports below were submitted by the Chairman of the Council to the President of ECOSOC:
   1. [ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2019)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21933ITU_Council_contribution_to_HLPF.PDF)   
      (CWG-WSIS&SDG received comments from: [Canada](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/HLPF-C/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0015%21R2%21PDF-E-CanadaComments.docx))
   2. [ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2020)](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=2568&menu=3170)   
      (CWG-WSIS&SDG received comments from: [Canada](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C-0018/en) and [United States of America](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C-0019/en))
   3. [ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2021](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27220International_Telecommunication_Union.pdf))   
      (CWG-WSIS&SDG received no comments)
   4. [Draft ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (2022](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0013/en)) (CWG-WSIS&SDG available for comments)
   5. The Group noted the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit and will continue to review ITU’s involvement in the process of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in future meetings.
10. The Secretariat presented the Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which highlight ITU’s activities and engagements that are advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en)).
11. The Group appreciated the updates provided by the Secretariat on the Activities of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0012/en)) and invited them to continue providing updates to the next meetings, including the recently published reports.
12. Discussion on the Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025.
    1. The Group thanked the Russian Federation for their contribution on the Implementation of the Outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2020 (WSIS+15) ([CWGWSIS35/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-C-0011/en)) and the proposals made therein and agreed to request the secretariat to change the way in which it plans, monitors and reports on work to implement the Action Lines for which the ITU is the lead facilitator. The Group’s requests to the Secretariat, responding to this contribution, are available in the Report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG activities since Council 21, presented to the ITU Council 2022.
    2. The Secretariat was requested to provide appropriate consultations with the partner UN agencies for implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and to consult with UNGIS members and other stakeholders to celebrate the implementation of 20 years of Geneva Plan of Action at the WSIS Forum 2024.
    3. The Group discussed whether the ITU should initiate and coordinate the preparations towards the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025. Proposals from the membership to the next CWG WSIS&SDG meeting was appreciated.
    4. The Group noted that the UN General Assembly had not yet decided on the modalities for the WSIS+20 review and decided to continue this conversation at the next CWG-WSIS&SDG.
    5. Bearing in mind the successful implementation of the WSIS Process since its launch, particularly emphasizing on the benefit for the developing countries, and on ITU as one of the leading UN agencies of this process, the Group recognized the importance to continue the implementation of the WSIS Process with ITU as a lead coordinator.
    6. The Group discussed ITU’s role in preparations towards the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025, together with the UNESCO and other involved UN agencies. Proposals from the membership to Council-22 and PP-22 will be appreciated.
    7. The Group requested the Secretariat to provide more information from other UN entities about preparations for WSIS+20 and related UN processes, including UNGA, UNESCO, UNGIS, ECOSOC, CSTD, et al, to inform Member States in the preparation for PP-22.
    8. Some members of the Group requested the ITU Secretary-General to present the Draft ITU’s Roadmap on WSIS+20 at the ITU Council 2022, aiming to continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS beyond 2025, in close collaboration with the UN agencies involved.
    9. Some members of the Group proposed a special session during the ITU Council 2022 to work on a WSIS+20 Roadmap highlighting ITU’s leadership role in the process while engaging with all UNGIS members.
    10. The Group agreed to forward this Report to the CWG-SFP emphasizing on the importance of linking the Draft Strategic Plan with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
    11. The Group noted the document presented by the Russian Federation - Proposals for the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0015/en)) with appreciation and noted that Group members could consider the proposals below in their preparations to PP-22:
        1. To recommend Member States to submit proposals to PP-22 for determination of the ways to prepare ITU for the WSIS review, to carry out work to fulfil the tasks set by WSIS within the framework of the responsibility and mandate of the ITU to implement the decisions of the Summit in close connection with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
        2. Following the good practice towards preparation for the WSIS+ 10 meeting, to take stock of the achievements, opportunities and challenges that have arisen due to the emergence of new technologies, in particularly affected by the pandemic.
        3. Building on the positive experience of the WSIS+10 Review preparatory process through Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform, by holding the WSIS + 10 High-level Event in the format of the extended WSIS Forum 2014 in preparation for the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2015, to consider using this approach and in preparation for 2025 under WSIS + 20.
        4. It was also recommended to submit assessment document to the 2022 Council session on the implementation of the priorities of the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, this could be a good foundation to the WSIS+20 Roadmap.
        5. To invite the ITU Secretary-General to provide consultation and coordination with UNESCO and other interested members of UNGIS on preparation for the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025, taking into account abovementioned approach.
    12. Some members of the Group expressed their support of above proposals.
    13. The Group discussed on the using the term “digital society” in the Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and consider that for the time being there is no definition of this term. In all relevant UNGA resolutions, including the latest one A/76/189, the UNGA used the term “information society”
    14. The Group proposed to replace term “digital society” in the draft modification of Resolution 71 (ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027) to “information society” and requested the Secretariat to inform CWG-CFP on this proposal.
    15. The members of the Group and the Secretariat were invited to:
        1. reflect relevant decisions of WTDC-21, WTSA-20 in documents prepared for PP-22.
        2. among proposals on further activity, to reflect main events, documents, trends and objectives in the field of WSIS&SDGs, which emerged since 2018, taking into account UNGA Resolutions 70/1 and 70/125, as well as relevant Sector’s resolutions.
13. UNESCO Resolution on WSIS adopted in the General Conference 2021
    1. The Group appreciated the updates provided by UNESCO’s representative and welcomed the good collaboration between UNESCO and ITU’s WSIS Secretariat.
    2. The Group noted the Report by the UNESCO’s Director-General on implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and appreciated the resolution on the Organization’s consolidated road map towards the twenty-year review (WSIS+20) in 2025.
    3. Some members of the Group requested the ITU Secretary-General to present the Draft ITU’s Roadmap on WSIS+20 at the ITU Council 2022, aiming to continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS beyond 2025, in close collaboration with the UN agencies involved.
14. **Recommendations to PP-22** ([Resolution 140](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf))

## Membership was invited to present views on the amendment of PP Resolution 140 at this group’s next meeting, taking into account, if any, new environment, including the impact of COVID-19, and ITU’s role in the preparation to 2025 UNGA overall review.

## The Group noted the document presented by the Russian Federation - *Proposals for the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG (*[*CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/15*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0015/en)*)* - which includes the proposed draft revisions to PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and recommended to continue consultations between RTOs on a modification of the PP Resolution 140.

1. On behalf of the CWG-WSIS&SDG the Chairman would like to give special thanks to all the ITU Member States and Sector Members who made contributions and participated in the work of the CWG-WSIS&SDG since PP-18, and Vice-Chairmen Ms Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan), Mr. Mario Canazza and Ms Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Mr. Cai Guolei (China), Prof. Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Wojciech Berezowski (Poland), Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), and Mr. Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia). I would also like to thank Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General; Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General; Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director, BR; Dr Chaesub Lee, Director, TSB; and Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director, BDT. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance to Mr. Catalin Marinescu, Head of SPD, and the Secretariat: Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr. Vladimir Stankovic, Mr. Michael Kioy, Ms Ruth Sidabutar, Ms Ursula Wynhoven, Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Ms Victoria Sukenik, Ms Esperanza Magpantay, Mr. Thierry Geiger, Ms Nancy Sundberg, Mr. Mario Castro Grande, Mr. Kyung Tak Lee, Mr. Martin Euchner, Ms Alicia Soto Romero, Mr. Martin Schaaper, Ms Susan Teltscher, Mr. Nelson Malaguti, Ms Jeoung Hee Kim, Ms Charlyne Restivo, and Mr. Martin Adolph.

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