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| **Council 2022Geneva, 21-31 March 2022** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C22/74-E** |
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| PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2022 Plenipotentiary conference AND THE OVERALL REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE wsis OUTCOMES IN 2025 |

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| SummaryIt is proposed to consider future work for the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs, preparations for the plenipotentiary conference and preparations for the high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025. It is proposed to prepare a draft ITU WSIS+20 roadmap with a view to ensuring that ITU continue to play a lead role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs beyond 2025, in close collaboration with other UN agencies, and also to hold a special session during Council 2022 for work on the WSIS+20 roadmap.Action requiredThe Council is invited to **consider** the document and **take** further action as necessary.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References*United Nations General Assembly Resolutions* [*70/1*](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf)*,* [*70/125*](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ares70d125_en.pdf)*,* [*75/202*](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/379/41/PDF/N2037941.pdf?OpenElement)*,* [*76/189*](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/406/01/PDF/N2140601.pdf?OpenElement)*; United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution* [*2021/28*](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28)*; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Resolution* [*41 C/27*](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000379370)*; Resolution* [*140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Council Resolution* [*1332 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en)*; Documents* [*C22/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0008/en)*,* [*C22/59*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0059/en) |

# I Introduction

The 2022 plenipotentiary conference (PP-22) is the only plenipotentiary conference before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2025. PP-22 should define approaches and tasks for the preparation of ITU for the UNGA high-level meeting and take decisions concerning the further work of the Union to fulfil the tasks set by WSIS within the framework of the responsibility and mandate of ITU to implement the WSIS outcomes in close connection with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As with the preparations for WSIS+10, it is advisable to take stock of what has been accomplished and to assess achievements and difficulties and problems encountered owing both to the development and emergence of new technologies and to environmental change, including challenges posed by the pandemic.

It is also necessary to discuss paths of further development, prospects and vision for the development of the information society beyond 2025. Over a 20-year period, a new generation has grown up and there has been exponential growth in technologies, while there is widespread digitalization, transition to a digital economy and digital transformation of society.

Noting the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in achieving the SDGs and eradicating poverty and that access to ICTs itself is becoming a development indicator and goal, it seems appropriate to continue the WSIS process until at least 2030.

Given the positive experience of preparing and holding the WSIS+10 High-Level Event, based on the multistakeholder preparatory platform, within the framework of the extended WSIS Forum 2014 in preparation for the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2015, it is worth considering adopting the same approach for WSIS+20 in 2025.

This issue is being discussed in other UN system organizations. At its General Conference in September 2021, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Resolution 41 C/27 invitedits Director-General to ensure a leading role for UNESCO in WSIS+20 by implementing the outlined roadmap in alignment with agreed UN reporting mechanisms on WSIS outcomes and to submit to the forthcoming 42nd session of the General Conference (2023) a report for debate on UNESCO’s implementation of the WSIS outcomes and how the vision of WSIS of a "people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented" society can best be fulfilled, taking into account current and future technological realities and challenges, along with a draft resolution on UNESCO’s consolidated roadmap towards the WSIS+20 review in 2025.

ITU, as initiator and lead organization in the WSIS process, jointly with UNESCO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and others, should also actively participate in preparations for WSIS+20 in close coordination with other organizations of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS). The WSIS process, coordinated by ITU, has proved an excellent and effective inter-agency mechanism of digital cooperation, involving over 30 UN agencies and other stakeholders.

The 38th meeting of the Council Working Group on WSIS and SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) discussed the role of ITU in preparation for the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025, in collaboration with UNESCO and other participating UN agencies, and requested that the secretariat provide more information from other UN entities about preparations for WSIS+20 and related UN processes, including UNGA, UNESCO, UNGIS, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and others, to ensure that Member States are informed in the preparation for PP-22.

Some members of CWG-WSIS&SDG requested that the ITU Secretary-General present a draft ITU WSIS+20 roadmap at ITU Council 2022, with a view to ensuring that ITU continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS beyond 2025, in close collaboration with other UN agencies, and proposed that a special session be held during ITU Council 2022 for work on the WSIS+20 roadmap.

CWG-WSIS&SDG plays an important role in this regard and should continue its work.

It seems appropriate to consider the issues raised at PP-22.

In preparing the draft revision of Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes, it seems appropriate to recall that the Plenipotentiary Conference (Dubai, 2018) recognized the need to streamline PP and relevant ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D resolutions. The roles and contributions of the Sectors in implementing the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs are set out in Resolution ITU-R 61-2 (Rev. Dubai, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly and Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference. Introducing changes to Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), to include paragraphs common to all Sectors, could help to significantly shorten the relevant resolutions of the Sectors.

# II Proposal

2.1 Support the proposals of CWG-WSIS&SDG members to prepare a draft ITU WSIS+20 roadmap, with a view to ensuring that ITU continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes beyond 2025 and facilitate achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related review process in close coordination with other United Nations agencies.

2.2 Support the draft ITU WSIS+20 roadmap overall and include a WSIS+20 Vision for beyond 2025, and until at least 2030 (WSIS+20 Vision beyond 2025), in the section “WSIS+20 Reporting” and reflect in the roadmap the need for close coordination with UNGIS, other UN entities and stakeholders involved in the WSIS process, in particular with UNESCO and CSTD.

2.3 Strengthen linkages between WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs and clearly highlight the achievements of the WSIS process and its positive impact in the context of recent global challenges, such as the response to COVID-19, digital inclusion and climate change, which have made the WSIS Forum a successful mechanism for multistakeholder knowledge sharing and expert and partner meetings.

2.4 Continue the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG for the next period.

2.5 Recommend to Member States, in preparing a revision of Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, to include text common to all Sectors, which could help to significantly shorten the relevant resolutions of the Sectors.

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