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| **Agenda item: PL. 2** | **Document C23/38-E** |
| **8 June 2023** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| |  | | --- | | ITU ACTIVITIES ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ITU IN BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES | | |
| **Purpose**  This report summarizes ITU’s activities in 2022-2023 in relation to Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), ITU’s role as sole facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and other decisions by the membership on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs).  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **note** the report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Advancing universal connectivity; sustainable digital transformation.  **Financial implications**  None.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Resolutions* [*71*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf)*,* [*130*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-130-E.pdf)*,* [*140*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*179*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-179-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Resolution* [*174*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-174-E.pdf) *(Rev. Dubai, 2018),* [*181*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-181-E.pdf) *(Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference;* [*ITRs*](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-WCIT-2012/en) *(Rev. Dubai, 2012); Council Resolution* [*1306*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0109/en)*;* [*WTDC Resolutions 45, 2, 67, 69 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf)*; ITU-D priorities (*[*Kigali Action Plan*](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en)*); Resolutions* [*50 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.50-2022)*,* [*52*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.52-2022) *(Rev. Hammamet, 2016),* [*75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2022)*,* [*58 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.58-2022) *of World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, Council Documents* [*C15/18*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0018/en) *,*[*C16/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0018/en)*,* [*C17/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0018/en)*,* [*C18/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-C-0018/en) *,* [*C19/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0018/en)*,* [*C20/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0018/en)*,* [*C21/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-C-0018/en)*,* [*C22/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0018/en) | |

This document reports on ITU’s activities in relation to Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), ITU’s role as sole facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, and other decisions by the membership on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Organized around the five pillars of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), this report shows the complementary nature of existing ITU work programmes, including BDT, TSB, and BR activities in this domain.

**1. Legal measures**

As part of ITU-D Priority 5 of the Kigali Action Plan, and taking into account ITU-D Q 3/2, ITU is assisting Member States in understanding the legal aspects of cybersecurity through its [ITU Cybercrime Legislation Resources](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Legal-Measures.aspx). ITU collaborates closely with partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

**2. Technical and procedural measures**

2.1 [ITU-T Study Group 17 (SG-17)](http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/studygroups/com17/) held two meetings in August/September 2022 and February/March 2023, established 32 [new standardization work items](https://www.itu.int/itu-t/workprog/wp_search.aspx?sg=17), and approved 18 new or revised Recommendations on ICT security. ITU-T SGs 5, 11, 13, 16 and 20 also approved recommendations on ICT security (see [catalogue of ITU-T Recommendations](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/publications/Pages/recs.aspx)) across a wide range of issues from electromagnetic security, signalling procedures and protocols, cloud computing, quantum key distribution networks, JPEG 2000 and oneM2M Security Solutions.

Several ITU-T focus groups, referenced on [this page](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/Pages/default.aspx), are also exploring the trust aspect of various emerging technologies as part of their work.

2.2 ITU-R has established clear security principles for IMT (3G, 4G and 5G) networks. It has also issued Recommendations on security issues in network management architecture for digital satellite systems and performance enhancements of transmission control protocol over satellite networks (see [here](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-REC)). Information on Futuristic mobile technologies – “IMT for 2020 and beyond” can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg5/rwp5d/imt-2020/Pages/default.aspx).

**3.** **Organizational structures**

3.1 Since 2012, ITU has been collaborating with Member States, partners, and global organizations to strengthen cybersecurity by creating national and regional Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs). Additionally, ITU conducts CIRT Maturity Assessments to further enhance CIRT capabilities. So far, ITU has assisted 84 countries by evaluating their cybersecurity readiness, leading to the establishment or improvement of National CIRTs. ITU has implemented 21 CIRT-related projects and is currently working on three more.

ITU actively collaborates with the FIRST community to enhance the Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT) Service Framework and revise training materials for capacity-building in managing national CIRT operations.

3.2 As of May 2023, ITU has organized over 40 international, regional or national [CyberDrills](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/cyberdrills.aspx) (including 3 Global CyberDrills), involving more than 120 countries across all six ITU regions. A [2023 Global CyberDrill](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/CyberDrill-2023/CyberDrill-2023.aspx) is scheduled for end of 2023.

**4. Capacity building**

4.1 BDT organized regional cybersecurity forums for all ITU regions to build capacity.

Following WTDC 2022, work on Question 3/2 continues ([Securing information and communication networks: Best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity](http://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/CDS/sg/rgqlist.asp?lg=1&sp=2014&rgq=D14-SG02-RGQ03.2&stg=2)).

4.2 The [Second edition of The Guide to Developing a National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS)](https://ncsguide.org/) has been published in 2021 in collaboration with over 20 international partners.. has been published.

4.3 Through the [ITU Academy](https://academy.itu.int/training-courses/full-catalogue?search_api_fulltext=&field_taxon_registration=All&field_course_fee=All&field_taxon_region=All&field_taxon_type=All&field_taxon_topics=109&field_taxon_languages=All&date_start=&date_end=&items_per_page=10), and the ITU Centres of Excellence and Academy Training Centres, ITU continues to deliver training activities and workshops in various areas of the cybersecurity domain. An [online self-paced training based](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/cybersecurity-national-strategies.aspx) on the NCS of the Guide has been launched in 2021 and continues to be delivered through ITU Academy.

4.4 The fifth edition of the [ITU Global Cybersecurity Index](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/global-cybersecurity-index.aspx) (GCI) Questionnaire was launched in April 2023, and is currently in the data collection phase. At GCI Expert Group meetings, involving over 140 experts, recommendations were made related to PP Res 130 (Rev. Bucharest 2022), and WTDC Res 46 (Rev. Kigali 2022) on weightages and moving to tiers reporting. These recommendations are being taken into consideration in the ongoing work.

4.5 ITU has successfully completed two editions of the [Women in Cyber Mentorship Programme](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Women-in-Cyber/Women-in-Cyber-Mentorship-Programme.aspx). The third cohort has been launched in April 2023, with target groups in the Africa, Arab and Asia-Pacific regions. The 2023 edition also included the launch of “[Her CyberTracks](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Women-in-Cyber/HerCyberTracks/Her-CyberTracks.aspx)” an initiative specifically targeted at women policy-makers and diplomats.

4.6 ITU is working with 15 countries through [Cyber for Good](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/Cyber4Good/Cyber4Good.aspx), providing free access to tools, trainings, and services through ITU-D Sector Members.

4.7 ITU is collaborating with OAS to develop a systems approach to cybersecurity education. The work will encompass a number of workshops to develop an adaptable guide for countries.

**5. International cooperation**

5.1 ITU is developing relationships and [partnerships](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Cybersecurity/Pages/partnership.aspx) with various regional/international organizations and initiatives, including OAS, ENISA, INTERPOL, ECOWAS, the World Bank, FIRST, the GFCE, and regional CSIRT/CERT associations, such as AP CERT, AFRICA CERT, and OIC CERT.

5.2 Council 2022 transmitted the approved Guidelines for utilization of the GCA to the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference for consideration. The Guidelines were noted by which invited the Council to consider proposals from Member States regarding the GCA, its current use and possible future elaboration.

5.3 As the lead facilitator for WSIS Action Line C5, ITU organized an Action Line C5 facilitator session on “Digital Resilience: The Next Frontier – Cyber and Space” at the [WSIS Forum 2023](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en), which also had several sessions addressing trust and confidence in areas related to new and emerging technologies such as AI, Quantum and others as well as protection of women and children online, among others.

5.4 ITU provided [insights from the Global Cybersecurity Index](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Open-Ended_Working_Group_on_Information_and_Communication_Technologies_-_(2021)/Overview_of_Global_Cybersecurity_Efforts_Current_Gaps.pdf) related to Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of ICTs (OWEG) at its fourth substantive session.

5.5 ITU continues to participate as an observer in the work of the [Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/cybercrime/ad_hoc_committee/home). UNODC serves as Secretariat for the Ad Hoc Committee.

**6. Child Online Protection (COP)**

6.1 Pursuant to ITU’s collaboration agreement with the SCORT Foundation, ITU co-organized an event at WSIS Forum 2023 on “[Safe Play in the Digital Age: Child Online Safety and Sports](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/463)”, leveraging the power of sports to increase child online safety awareness.

6.2 ITU has been implementing the project “Creating a safe and empowering cyber environment for children”, pursuant to the agreement signed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This has involved the launch and implementation of a number of online self-paced trainings for all relevant stakeholders on ITU Academy. In mid-2023 ITU is set to launch two interactive solutions designed to help equip children and young people to become responsible digital citizens – a webapp and an online game.

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