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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C23/59-E** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITU COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1408 ON ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO UKRAINE FOR REBUILDING THEIR TELECOMMUNICATION SECTOR | |
| **Purpose**  This report outlines the activities and developments since the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022), on assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector in response to the *resolves* of the ITU Council Resolution 1408 (C22), in particular focusing on monitoring and reporting, coordination mechanisms, facilitation of technical assistance, and mobilization of resources.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited **to note** this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Provision of Technical Assistance.  **Financial implications:**  140,000 CHF, including 20,000 CHF from the ITU budget, 100,000 CHF in monetary voluntary contributions, and 20,000 CHF in-kind contribution  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  Council [Resolution 1408 (C22)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/ResDec/Council-RES-1408-e.pdf); document [PP-22/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0070/en) of the Plenipotentiary Conference | |

1. **Introduction**

This report summarizes the actions the ITU secretariat has been undertaking to address the *resolves* of ITU Council [Resolution 1408](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/ResDec/Council-RES-1408-e.pdf) on “**Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector**”, in particular focusing on monitoring and reporting, coordination mechanisms, facilitation of technical assistance, and mobilization of resources, being carried out since the last reporting to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Document [PP-22/70](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0070/en)).

## 2. Monitoring and reporting

With the aim of facilitating effective technical assistance, a constant monitoring of digital resilience in Ukraine was continued. A special website, dedicated to the implementation of Council Resolution 1408, was constantly updated and is available [here](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Projects/2022/Council%20Resolution%20on%20Ukraine%20-%20Coordination%20and%20Implementation/Council-Resolution-on-Ukraine---Coordination-and-Implementation.aspx).

**A. The interim assessment on damages to telecommunication infrastructure and resilience of the ICT ecosystem in Ukraine** was published in December 2022 to serve the purpose of programming effective assistance to Ukraine and of facilitating resource mobilization to rebuild the telecommunication infrastructure in Ukraine[[1]](#footnote-1).

The report covers the period of first six months of the war and states that at the level of public and private policies, and emergency measures, the Ukraine telecommunication sector has proven to be resilient, however:

* ICT networks of operators were partially and, in some instances, fully destroyed or occupied;
* within a period of six months of war, 1123 cyberattacks were reported, targeting all the sectors of the economy of Ukraine, including IT and telecommunications;
* as of July 2022, 12.2 per cent of homes lost access to mobile communications services (3.1 per cent partially), 11 per cent of base stations of mobile operators were out of service and 20 per cent of the country's telecommunication infrastructure was damaged or destroyed;
* the economic losses of the telecommunication sector have been estimated to be more than USD 0.1 billion;
* telecommunication companies provide 22 per cent fewer services, which has resulted in reduced income and revenues;
* USD 1.79 billion is needed to restore the telecommunication sector.

**B. Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine** was elaborated jointly ITU, the UN Resident Coordinator Office and all members of the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia. It was used as the input to the UN Common Country Analysis and the Interim Sustainable Development Framework (2023-2024).

The report provides the diagnostic of the digital resilience of the country following the digital transformation wheel methodology, including access, adoption and value creation. Each of the building block is equipped with the analysis of the effect of the war.

**C.** ITU joined the consortium led by United Nations, World Bank and European Commission, carrying out the regular **Rapid Damage and Needs Assessments**, and provided input for its 2nd edition released in March 2023[[2]](#footnote-2). Below the summary of damage, losses and needs are presented:

* The total damage across sectors covered in the RDNA2 is estimated at approximately USD 135 billion;
* Aggregate economic, social, and other monetary loss totals almost USD 290 billion;
* The total reconstruction and recovery needs are estimated at about USD 411 billion;
* The priority short-term ICT sector recovery needs amount to USD 3.1 billion; of this amount, USD 1.8 billion is for reconstruction needs, and USD 1.3 billion is for needs related to service delivery restoration.

## 3. Coordination mechanisms for effective implementation

With the aim of ensuring coordinated approach for ITU activities in response to Resolution 1408, ITU continued to carry out the following actions:

* At the **level of ITU**, from January 2023 the Deputy Secretary-General was designated to lead a Special Task Force on Resolution 1408, composed by the General Secretariat and the three Sectors, which was meeting on a regular basis and providing the platform for intersectoral coordination. ITU Office for Europe has been designated to provide secretariat and lead on the operationalization of all actions carried out in the context of Resolution 1408;
* At the **country level**, regular coordination calls with the Administration of Ukraine and other public institutions were carried out;
* At the **level of the UN system**, ITU continued to support the works of the UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine and the UN Country Team, contributing to the elaboration of the UN Common Country Assessment, the Transitional UN Sustainable Development Framework and consultations on EU accession.

## 4. Facilitating technical assistance

Building upon the findings of the Interim Assessment and following coordination with Ukraine, rebuilding and reconstruction of **broadcasting systems** has been identified as the immediate priority for the country. Level of damages of fifteen broadcasting stations was considered and five stations were selected for the immediate assessment, leading towards the development of technical specification including financial dimension of investment needed and implementation timeline. As a final result of this activity, it is expected to equip the country with project documents to facilitate attracting funding from the international donor community.

In addition, initial discussions have been held regarding a special assistance directed towards elaboration of the **enabling environment** and the national framework for the roll out of digital infrastructure relying on the public aid.

Moreover, following the **Partner2Connect mechanism**, ITU Office for Europe reiterated the call for pledges inviting all stakeholders to submit their pledges and commitments on concrete actions carried out by countries specifically related to implementation of Resolution 1408.

As of today, the following countries have contributed to the Partner2Connect pledging system: Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States. The total estimated financial value of all pledges exceeds USD 140 million.

**ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe** (23 May 2023) served as an opportunity to hold a special session and present some new commitments coming from Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom. Their total estimated financial value exceeds USD 43 million.

ITU looks forward to contributing to the **Ukraine Reconstruction Conference (URC)**, from 21 to 22 June 2023, London (United Kingdom). ITU will use this opportunity to call for further engagements in the activities related to ITU Council Resolution 1408.

Dedicated follow-up with the Member States and other stakeholders is still ongoing and new commitments are being identified.

## 5. Mobilization of resources

With the aim of ensuring adequate financial and human resources needed for addressing the *resolves* of Resolution 1408, a series of actions have been undertaken:

* a review of internal budget has been done and additional resources have been allocated by BDT (20 000 CHF) to strengthen the implementation capacity of the ITU Office for Europe related to ITU Council Resolution 1408;
* a call to contribute to a Special Fund in Trust dedicated to the implementation of Resolution 1408 was reiterated and integrated into the regular messaging of the ITU;
* resources received from Japan (100 000 CHF) and Lithuania (in-kind contribution of the value of 20 000 CHF) are being used for the implementation of operations.

## 6. Conclusions

Taking into account the level of damages and financial needs to restore telecommunication infrastructure and strengthen digital resilience of the country, all stakeholders are kindly invited to support activities of ITU in response to Resolution 1408, in particular the following:

* committing to providing technical assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding of their telecommunication sector;
* joining the Partner2Connect initiative and providing pledges focusing on Ukraine through online system[[3]](#footnote-3)
* providing a financial contribution to the Special Fund in Trust, enabling the scaling-up of the implementation of ITU Council Resolution 1408.

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1. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Interim%20assessment%20on%20damages%20to%20telecommunication%20infrastructure%20and%20resilience%20of%20the%20ICT%20ecosystem%20in%20Ukraine%20-2022-12-22_FINAL.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Publications/2023/RDNA%20-%20Ukraine.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges [↑](#footnote-ref-3)