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| Report by the Chair, Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG | |
| REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CWG-WSIS&SDG 39TH AND 40TH MEETINGS | |
| **Purpose**  This report summarizes the main results of the 39th and 40th meetings of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG), in line with [Resolution 140](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and Council Resolutions [1332 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en), and [1334 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en).  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platforms; partnerships and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/70/125*](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1)*,* [*A/RES/77/150*](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/755/00/pdf/N2275500.pdf?OpenElement)*,* [*A/71/212*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212)*,* [*A/70/299*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299)*,* [*A/70/684*](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684)*,* [*A/RES/73/218*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218)*; UN ECOSOC* [*Resolution E/RES/2023/3*](https://undocs.org/E/RES/2023/3)*; Plenipotentiary Conference Resolutions* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf)*,* [*Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf)*; Council Resolutions* [*1332 (Modified 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en)*,* [*1334 (Modified 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en)*; WTDC Resolutions* [*30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf)*; WTSA Resolutions* [*75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-RES-T.75-2022)*; WRC Resolutions* [*61-2 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-2-2019)*;* [*WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015*](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf#page=21)*;* [*Final WSIS Targets Review*](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/wsisreview2014/WSIS2014_review.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Report; ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014);*](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Documents/WSIS+10Report.pdf) [*Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG Meetings held since PP-18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0020/en)*;* [*Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG Meetings held since Council 21*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0019/en)*;* [*Roadmap for ITU’s Activities to Help Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en)*;* *[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap;](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/22/cl/c/S22-CL-C-0059!!MSW-E.docx)* [*Summary of 39th Meeting*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/23/cwgwsis39/c/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0022!!MSW-E.docx)*;* [*Summary of 40th Meeting*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/24/cwgwsis40/c/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0015!!MSW-E.docx)*;* [*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*.* | |

1. **Introduction**

This document contains the summary report of the two meetings of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG), held since the July 2023 session of the Council. During this period the work of the group focused on:

1. Activities conducted by ITU towards the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2. Overall WSIS+20 Review Process and ITUs contribution to the Review
3. Alignment of the WSIS Process with the 2030 Agenda and its contributions to other UN processes
4. ITUs contribution to the High-level Political Forum
5. ITUs contribution to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and its relationship with the WSIS Process

The meetings were well attended physically and virtually (39th meeting 140 participants and 40th meeting 150 participants), representing ITU Member States and Sector Members. The meetings considered 33 documents and 10 information documents. The meetings continue to provide an opportunity to reach consensus on progress achieved in WSIS process implementation, underlining the importance of urging global digital discussions, and the group is invited to continue addressing its work with openness, respect, and commitment. The contributions received by the secretariat and the Member States were recognized and appreciated, with special thanks to the secretariat and Vice-Chairs.

1. **Activities of the CWG-WSIS&SDG**
   1. The meetings discussed the updates on implementation and follow-up actions to relevant ITU and United Nations (UN) resolutions and processes, including Resolutions from the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) and Council Resolutions [1332](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en) and [1334](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en), United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions [A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125), [A/RES/70/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1), [A/RES/77/150](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/755/00/pdf/N2275500.pdf?OpenElement), [A/71/212](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212), [A/70/299](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299), [A/70/684](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684), [A/RES/73/218](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218); Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [Resolution E/RES/2023/3](https://undocs.org/E/RES/2023/3);
   2. In line with the Resolution 1332, the Secretary-General’s comprehensive report on [ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx)*,* providing an overview of ITU activities and projects undertaken to implement the WSIS outcomes and in support of the 2030 Agenda, was presented.
   3. The meeting also discussed the follow-up to the UNSG’s report and provided additional updates on the “Our Common Agenda” ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0002/en)), the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2023 ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0004/en)) and the ITU Council contribution, as well as the WSIS Forum contribution at High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023 ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0003/en), [CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0014/en)), and the ongoing preparations for the 2024 Summit of the Future ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-39/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CWGWSIS39-C-0004/en))
   4. The [CSTD Roadmap for the WSIS+20 Review](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162023_roadmap_p05_CSTDChair_en.pdf) was presented by UNCTAD and UNCSTD representatives, while the [UNESCO’s Roadmap Towards the WSIS+20 Review in 2025](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379370) was presented by UNESCO representative.
   5. Preparation of the Summit of the Future 2024, including the Global Digital Compact (GDC), were also discussed, with co-facilitators of the two processes presenting the briefings (supporting documents: [CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-INF-0004/en), [CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/INF/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-INF-0005/en), and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-INF-0006/en)).
   6. ITU’s [WSIS Action Lines Roadmaps](http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx) for C2, C4, C5 and C6 were presented, in alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2024-2027, and updates will be made available at the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting.
   7. The meetings reviewed the outcomes of annual activities contributing to the [WSIS Forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum), the [WSIS Stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) and the [WSIS Prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes), as fully aligned with and contributing to the SDGs ([WSIS-SDG Matrix](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) as developed by UN agencies).
   8. ITU’s contribution to the [Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx) was presented and its importance in producing high-quality and timely ICT statistics and leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics and the urgent need to identify follow-up indicators to measure progress in achieving the development goals, including for the Global Digital Compact, was highlighted.
   9. The work of the [United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/) for the period 2023-2024 was presented and ITU’s contributions to UNGIS were highlighted.
   10. On the preparation activities to the Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025, while the group recognized the WSIS as a multistakeholder process that has stood the test of time, the WSIS+20 review process is expected to provide a guidance framework for all stakeholders for addressing opportunities and challenges posed by the current digital landscape, having regard to the strategic goals of the Union, i.e. universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation, the following points highlight the activities of the group:
       1. [CWG-WSIS&SDG](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0018/en) initiated discussions on the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 review process and its preparations. The Secretary-General's report elaborating the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 review process (“[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/22/cl/c/S22-CL-C-0059!!MSW-E.docx)“) was presented and noted at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022). Several sessions on the WSIS+20 review process were held at WSIS Forum 2022 and 2023, with the participation of all stakeholders. The discussions covered examples of reporting templates that could be used by WSIS action line facilitators, civil society and countries. Member States are invited to take the necessary action required for the preparations of the overall review of WSIS.
       2. The [WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event](http://www.wsis.org/forum) preparations were reviewed and discussed, while the Event was recognized as a platform for the [WSIS+20 review](http://www.wsis.org/review) that will enable multistakeholder discussions on progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes under the mandates of the participating agencies, and as an opportunity to take stock of achievements in the last 20 years based on reports from WSIS stakeholders, including countries, action line facilitators and others.
       3. ITU’s contributions to the global digital governance processes, such as the GDC and the 2030 Agenda, to ensure synergy and coherence throughout the WSIS+20 review process, were appreciated by the group.
   11. ITU’s contributions to the alignment activities between WSIS and other UN processes and events were reviewed and appreciated, including the UNGIS/WSIS side event “[WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/131)” took place at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023. At the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD61), special sessions were held on “[Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Older Persons: Healthy Ageing in a Digital World](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/132)” and on “[Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Accessibility: Towards Building Inclusive Digital Communities](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/133)”. During the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), a WSIS/UNGIS side event was delivered on “[ICTs for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – from potential to prosperity](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/346)”. A WSIS Gender Trendsetters side event on “[ICTs for Gender Inclusion](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/358)” was held at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
   12. In line with Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C19), and taking into account the overall mandate of ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the [roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en) was presented, including series of actions have been implemented as guided by the Roadmap and CWG members.
   13. Following the presentations of the ITU’s activities towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda ([Connect 2030 Agenda](https://www.itu.int/highlights-report-activities/connect2030/)) as also reflected in the [strategic framework set out in the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027](https://www.itu.int/en/council/planning/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=%E2%80%8BITU%20will%20work%20to,for%20the%20benefit%20of%20all.), was discussed, and the group highlighted the importance of realization of ITU’s mission and role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda.
   14. ITU’s participation in HLPFs held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and at the SDG Summits held every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly, were discussed and appreciated. Inputs from the ITU Council to the HLPFs are available on the [CWG-WSIS&SDG website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx) and the [UN HLPF website](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs?f%5B0%5D=type%3AIntergovernmental%20forums%20and%20bodies).
2. **The group considered and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to this meeting and made the following recommendations:**
   1. The group requested the secretariat to update the ITU Roadmaps C2, C4, C5 and C6 (2023) with all the WSIS Action Lines, where ITU is a lead facilitator, and to present it to the next CWG-WSIS&SDG.
   2. The membership and all stakeholders are invited to contribute to the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, its calls for action, and to participate at the event scheduled to take place 27-31 May in CICG and ITU HQ in Geneva.
   3. Further information about the WSIS Forum 2025 is to be presented in the 2024 session of the Council.
   4. The membership and all WSIS stakeholders are invited to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust and to explore the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event partnership packages. The group appreciated the announced WSIS Fund in Trust 2024 Partners.
   5. The membership and all stakeholders are encouraged to actively contribute to the WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes calls for action and supporting activities, including the WSIS special prizes.
   6. The group appreciated updates on UNGIS activities and its contributions to other UN processes, highlighting the importance of digital in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs, and ITU’s leading role in this process.
   7. The group encouraged the secretariat to continue collaborating with all UN agencies, including GDC and Summit of the Future discussions.
   8. The secretariat was requested to further engage with the GDC and Summit of the Future seeking for alignment that is well coordinated and complementary between the GDC and WSIS outcomes
   9. The group encouraged the ITU Regional Offices to continue facilitating the participation and engagement of the Member States in the regional activities and projects, particularly in implementing the WSIS outcomes at the regional level and planning the WSIS+20 review meetings.
   10. The membership was invited to participate in the regional events organised by ITU and regional organisations on WSIS and SDGs.
   11. The membership was invited to actively participate in commemorating the theme of WTISD-24 on Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development and WTISD-25 on Gender Equality in Digital Transformation.
   12. The group noted the activities presented in the Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and looked forward to receiving the roadmap document for the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting.
   13. In preparation towards the Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025, and in accordance with the Resolution 1334 (mod.2023) CWG-WSIS&SDG agreed to:
   14. invite the secretariat to submit to 2024 Council session a first draft report on ITU's contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs (2015-2025) for submission to the 2025 session of CSTD and UNGA (hereinafter referred to as the report on ITU's contribution to WSIS+20)
   15. invite the 2024 Council session after the consideration of the first draft the report on ITU's contribution to WSIS+20, due to time constraints related to the sequence of the 2025 CSTD session and the 2025 Council session and expected relevant ITU activities to be conducted after 2024 Council session to instruct the CWG-WSIS&SDG:
       1. to consider and agree on the report for ITU's contribution to WSIS+20 for further submission to the 2025 session of CSTD and UNGA;
       2. to report to the 2025 Council session accordingly.

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