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| Contribution by the Secretary-General | |
| DRAFT WSIS+20 REPORT: TWENTY YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION BY THE ITU TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE WSIS OUTCOMES AND ITS ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE SDGS | |
| **Purpose**  The objective of this draft report is to highlight ITU’s contribution over twenty years towards the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs. The final report is to be submitted by the ITU Secretary-General to the 2025 sessions of UN CSTD and UNGA, and to the ITU Council 2025, through the CWG-WSIS&SDG.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of this draft 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. **Background and objectives**

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is an integral and dynamic process which has evolved over the years to keep with technology changes. WSIS+20 process offers the opportunity to review what needs to be adjusted or included into the WSIS framework, which can quite seamlessly adapt to new technologies, e.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI). ITU’s contributions have been instrumental in promoting Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development through defining and determining WSIS as well as fostering international cooperation in delivering on the WSIS commitments.

* 1. **Brief history of ITU’s contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society**

The concept of WSIS was first introduced by Tunisia during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP) in 1998 in Minneapolis, United States. The PP-98 adopted a resolution ([Resolution 73, Minneapolis, 1998](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/background/resolutions/73.html)) calling for a WSIS. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) [Resolution 56/183](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/background/resolutions/56_183_unga_2002.pdf) (2001) endorsed the holding of WSIS in two phases. ITU was tasked to hold the leading role in the organization of the Summit. An Executive Secretariat (WSIS-ES), established under the authority of the High-Level Summit Organizing Committee (HLSOC), under the patronage of Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, was based at the ITU headquarters to assist in the preparation of the Summit. The first gathering of its kind took place in two phases, in Geneva in 2003 and in Tunis in 2005, and involved more than 30,000 attendees, including approximately one hundred Heads of State and government. In 2014 the WSIS+10 High-level event reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and identified emerging trends, challenges and opportunities: [WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015.](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/dam/documents.html#outcomes)

* 1. **ITU’s Mandate on the implementation of WSIS**

The [Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=1161|1160) (2003) and the [Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=2266|2267) (2005) are pivotal documents that delineate the outcomes of the Summit and establish the framework for implementing WSIS, with ITU playing a prominent role as one of its leading stakeholders. Ten years after, in December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [Resolution 70/125](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F125&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), which outlined the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS. This resolution recognized the crucial role ITU plays in the WSIS implementation. ITU’s mandates in implementing the WSIS outcomes are also outlined in [Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf), [Resolution 1332 (modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en), [Resolution 1334 (modified 2023).](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en) The full list of references defining the mandate of ITU on the WSIS implementation is available in the table of [**Annex 1**](#Annex1).

1. **ITU’s twenty-year contribution to the achievements of WSIS Outcomes[[1]](#footnote-2)**
   1. **World Summit on the Information Society Forum**

The annual WSIS Forum is a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. Organized by ITU, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations, the WSIS Forum since 2009 has been bringing together a multistakeholder community of more than 50 000 participants contributing onsite and remotely. Ahead of the UNGA’s twenty-year review of WSIS at the end of 2025, the [WSIS+20 Forum High Level Event](http://www.wsis.org/forum) 2024 and the WSIS Forum 2025 will serve as platforms for multistakeholder exchanges and catalysts for action, taking stock of achievements, key trends, and challenges since the 2003 Geneva Plan of Action. It will also be a unique occasion for the international community to assess opportunities for continued global digital cooperation towards a forward-looking and reinvigorated shared vision, informing the Summit of the Future in 2024, and UNGA in 2025, and leveraging existing frameworks of digital cooperation for implementation and follow up on the Global Digital Compact (GDC). It is proposed that Member States consider the linkage between the GDC and WSIS+20 review process and leverage WSIS, including the Forum, as a suitable mechanism to support the GDC follow-up and implementation, building upon existing processes. See more on the [WSIS Forum input](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Ftechenvoy%2Fsites%2Fwww.un.org.techenvoy%2Ffiles%2FGDC-submission_WSIS.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cvladimir.stankovic%40itu.int%7C2defbff4b3c1479c460408dc53024b40%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638476517132707250%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=h6Otdd22Ux44HUqIH1NeFzUU1rN5ZT9B0mcxGFIPhH0%3D&reserved=0) to GDC online consultations.

* 1. **WSIS Action Lines (ITU as lead facilitator)**

ITU has been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and is the sole facilitator for Action Lines C2 (infrastructure development), C4 (capacity building), C5 (cybersecurity), and C6 (enabling environment). Special presentation on *WSIS+20 Review Action Lines Milestones, Challenges and Emerging Trends beyond 2025* according to each Action Line is being produced by the [WSIS Action Line Facilitators](https://publicadministration.un.org/wsis10/WSIS-Action-Lines-and-Facilitators), including those of ITU, is available on the WSIS [website](http://www.wsis.org/forum). See more in the [**Annex 2**](#Annex2)**.**

* 1. **WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes**

In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Tunis Agenda adopted by WSIS, ITU has been maintaining the publicly accessible [WSIS Stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) Database, collecting ICT-related initiatives and projects with reference to the 11 WSIS Action Lines and 17 SDGs. Since 2004, it has grown into an international repository of more than 15 000 entries. ITU has been issuing global, regional, and special [WSIS Stocktaking reports](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking), which serve as a valuable international repository for understanding the development of ICTs, making economic, social, cultural, and environmental impact on the ground. The United Nations [ECOSOC Resolution 2023/3](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2023d3_en.pdf) on “*Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*” reiterates the importance of sharing best practices at the global level and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the WSIS goals, encourages all stakeholders to submit ICT-related projects and initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking platform. The same resolution also reiterates the importance of recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the WSIS process and encourages all stakeholders to nominate their ICT-related projects for the annual [WSIS Prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) contest, as an integral part of the WSIS Stocktaking process. The WSIS Prizes contest was launched in 2012, consisting of more than 4 000 submitted ICT projects and initiatives, and has so far attracted hundreds of thousands of stakeholders through its submission and online voting phases, while reaching out to millions of people through the promotion of its outcomes and celebrations of winners and champions.

* 1. **Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development**

As an active member and Chair of the Steering Committee of the [Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx), the ITU has been instrumental in advancing the Partnership’s goals and objectives through its expertise and collaborative initiatives. The ITU has contributed significantly by providing internationally agreed methodologies that enhance the quality and comparability of statistics on core indicators on access to, and usage of ICTs by households and individuals, as well as telecommunication indicators on a global scale. Moreover, the ITU has organized around 20 country and regional capacity building workshops and trainings, effectively empowering countries to improve their ICT data collection and dissemination practices.

* 1. **United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**

Since its inception in 2006 at ITU HQ, UNGIS has played an important role in the WSIS process by forging collaboration and partnerships among CEB members to achieve the WSIS objectives. It has helped to keep ICT and science and technology issues at the top of the UN Agenda, and has advocated for the implementation of ICT for development solutions in the programs of CEB members. The overall goals have been to achieve more coordinated actions, greater coherence and effectiveness in the UN’s overall support to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes. UNGIS has organized numerous joint thematic activities, meetings, open consultations, events, and joint statements, all accessible on the [UNGIS website](http://www.ungis.org). UNGIS is a tangible example of digital cooperation in the UN system. Effective collaboration on digital governance within the UN system is very important with ICTs and digital being critical to the achievement of the WSIS goals and SDGs. As mentioned previously, the WSIS Process and its elements, including the UNGIS, serve as robust frameworks for global digital cooperation that can be leveraged to support the follow up on the Global Digital Compact. ITU is the co-chair of UNGIS along with UNDP for the current period of 2023-2024. (See more on [UNGIS input and statements](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Ftechenvoy%2Fsites%2Fwww.un.org.techenvoy%2Ffiles%2FGDC-submission_UNGIS.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cvladimir.stankovic%40itu.int%7C2defbff4b3c1479c460408dc53024b40%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638476517132718945%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uek3rTTLKGPOoGRF4q8ZCbwtH5dDxmDqcWbJujKF8rs%3D&reserved=0) to GDC Consultations).

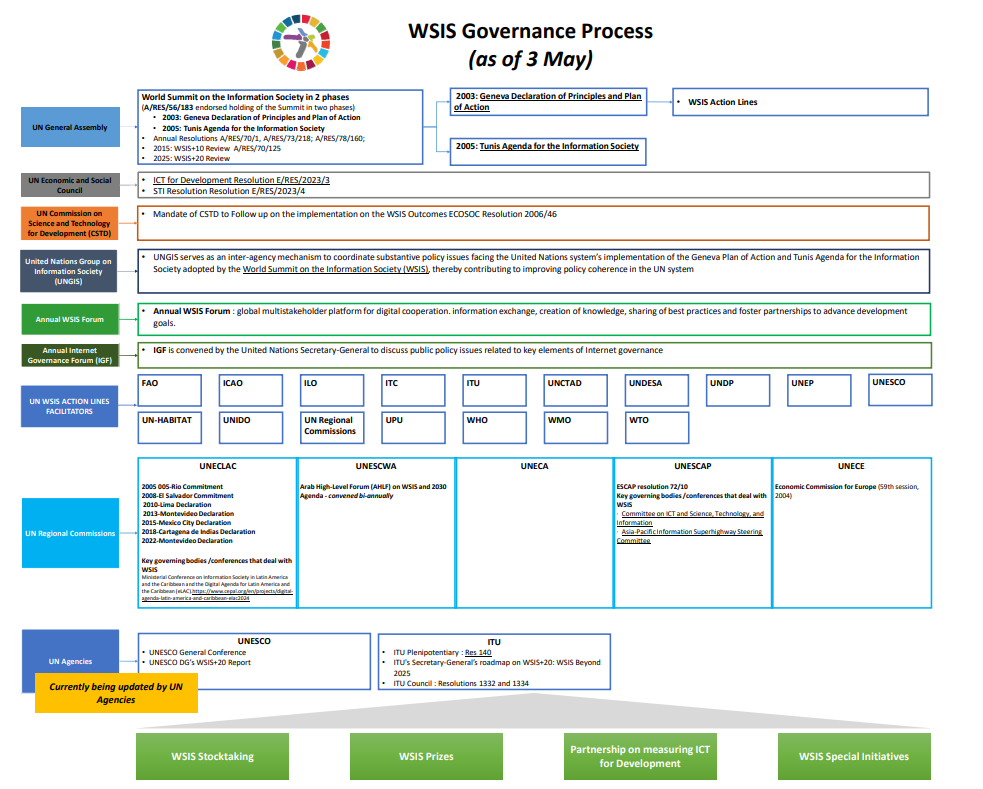
1. **ITU’s Role in Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, ITU, the United Nations’ specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs), has played an instrumental role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Guided by the WSIS outcomes, ITU has consistently leveraged the transformative power of ICTs and digital transformation to benefit global societies, significantly contributing to the realization of all SDGs, also through its [WSIS&SDG matrix](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) of activities. In alignment with the Political Declaration adopted in September 2023 by the Heads of State at the SDG Summit at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, ITU remains committed to bridging the digital divides and promoting the benefits of digitalization. The ITU’s strategic documents, including the [ITU Strategic Plan for 2024-2027](https://www.itu.int/en/council/planning/Pages/default.aspx) and the [Connect 2030 Agenda](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/backgrounders/Pages/connect-2030-agenda.aspx), underscore the importance of universal connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable digital transformation.

1. **Opportunities**

For over two decades, the WSIS process has proven to be a well-established, inclusive implementation framework for digital cooperation. Continually adapting to emerging trends and technological advances such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, and big data, WSIS has played a significant role in shaping the digital landscape. As the UN agency for digital technologies, ITU is at the forefront of advocating for universal connectivity, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring that the digital transformation is inclusive. As we progress towards WSIS+20 and beyond, ITU’s commitment to the WSIS multistakeholder community remains steadfast. ITU will continue to provide support and guidance, helping stakeholders navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital world. ITU advocates for a digital future that is inclusive and accessible to all, ensuring that no one is left behind.

***Annexes: 2***



ANNEX 2

**WSIS Action Lines with ITU as lead facilitator**

1. **Action Line C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure**

ITU’s has been a lead facilitator of [Action Line C2](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/c2/index.html) since 2005, and has been providing technical support to our members to enable the use of modern, available, secure, accessible, and affordable connectivity through the deployment of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services for bridging the digital divide. Over the past 20 years, tremendous work has been carried out to grow and deploy ICT infrastructure across the world, specifically across rural areas in developing countries, small island states and landlocked countries. As a result, internet use has monumentally progressed from 16% in 2005 to 67% by end of 2023 ([ITU Statistics](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx?.)). The number of people worldwide not connected to the Internet remains an astounding 2.6 billion in 2023, and ITU continues to work on connecting the unconnected, also through the WSIS framework. Examples of assistance provided include the publication of sustainable and innovative electricity grid solutions for broadband internet in rural areas, wireless connectivity deployments for schools, hospitals, and underserved populations. ITU has established Expertise Centres in countries to support their transition to Ipv6 and IoT technologies. Other initiatives include capacity-building projects for IMT technologies and 5G rollouts, support for Internet Exchange Points deployments, ongoing implementations such as the GIGA initiative to connect every school to the internet through collaboration with UNICEF, and assistance to countries transitioning from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting. (See ITU’s [WSIS Action Line Roadmaps](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx)).

1. **Action Line C4: Capacity Building**

ITU, as the lead facilitator of [Action Line C4](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/c4/index.html), is dedicated to enhancing capacity development efforts by tailoring ICT programs, tools, and channels to various target groups. The [ITU Academy](https://academy.itu.int/) portal serves as the primary access point for ITU’s capacity development and training initiatives, catering to ICT professionals and policymakers at intermediate and advanced levels. The platform has engaged over 45 000 learners from all Member States, with a significant majority from developing countries. Through programs like the [Centres of Excellence](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/centres-excellence/coe-overview) and [Academy Training Centres](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/itu-academy-training-centres), ITU offers continuous education to ICT professionals through face-to-face, online, and blended learning approaches. ITU develops and updates existing knowledge products such as the [Digital Skills toolkit](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/research-publications/digital-skills-toolkit), the [Digital Skills Assessment Guidebook](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/research-publications/digital-skills-insights/digital-skills-assessment-guidebook) and the [Digital Skills insights](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/research-publications/digital-skills-insights/digital-skills-assessment-guidebook) publications to provide stakeholders with practical information and step-by-step guidance to enhance their national digital capacity development framework and strategies. ITU has also developed general and specialized training programmes such as the [Spectrum Management Training Programme](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/curriculum-development/smtp) or the [Quality of Service Training Programme](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/curriculum-development/qos) and continues to promote international and regional cooperation through the Digital Skills Forum (previously the [Capacity Building Symposium](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/capacity-development-topics/global-ict-cbs)) and [Academia partnership meetings.](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/capacity-development-topics/itu-academia-partnership-meeting) Furthermore, ITU contributes to advancing digital skills among underrepresented groups, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and underserved communities. Initiatives like the [Digital Transformation Centres Initiative](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/digital-transformation-centres-initiative/), have trained over 300 000 participants from underserved communities in 14 countries across four regions since 2019. ITU is committed to promoting gender equality in ICT education through initiatives like the EQUALS, and [African Girls Can Code](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Africa/Pages/African-Girls-Can-Code-Initiative-(AGCCI)-II.aspx) and [Americas Girls Can Code](https://www.itu.int/hub/2020/12/americas-girls-can-code-leveling-the-tech-playing-field-for-girls-and-women/). ITU collaborates with ILO in the [Digital Skills Campaign](https://academy.itu.int/itu-d/projects-activities/ilo-itu-digital-skills-campaign) to address the digital skills gap, aiming to reach 25 million young people by 2030 to enhance employability and innovation capabilities. See ITU’s [WSIS Action Line Roadmaps](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx).

1. **Action Line C5: Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs**

WSIS affirmed the importance of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, establishing [Action Line C5](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/c5/index.html) for this purpose, with ITU designated as the moderator/facilitator, a role consistently fulfilled by the Union to strengthen the trust and security framework, in line with [ITU PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf). Overall, there has been a global recognition of ICTs as a vital tool in achieving the SDGs, and of the fact that, for ICTs to realize this role, it is important that everyone, everywhere has trust and confidence in the use of ICTs. In this era of emerging technologies, the objective of “Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs” is therefore, more than ever, an essential goal to achieve the SDGs. Over the years, the framework provided by WSIS Action Line C5, and the resulting Global Cybersecurity Agenda by ITU has facilitated the deployment of cybersecurity solutions to countries around the world, forming the basis of all our activities on cybersecurity – whether it is our work on developing international security standards including on trust in new and emerging technologies such as AI, Quantum, Metaverse and others, promoting national cybersecurity strategies, deploying national incident response capabilities, protecting children online, and various other capacity building efforts. Some examples are: ITU has undertaken assessments on computer incident response in eighty-six (86) countries and is engaging in the establishment and enhancement of National Computer Incident Response Teams, twenty-three (23) of which have successfully concluded with the national capability fully operational. In addition, ITU has also conducted over forty-six (46) CyberDrills involving more than one-hundred and forty (140) countries. Also, over 300+ women have participated in the ITU Women in Cyber and Her CyberTracks (in partnership with GIZ) programs over the past three years, during which they have received mentorship, training, and networking on cybersecurity. This year, a new track is being launched with UNODA on cybercrime. See ITU’s [WSIS Action Line Roadmaps](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx).

1. **Action Line C6: Enabling Environment**

Recognizing the strong commitment of ITU’s towards bridging the digital divide in the area of the enabling environment, UNDP officially handed over the lead facilitation role for WSIS [Action Line C6](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/c6/index.html) to the ITU in May 2008. Since then, ITU has been acting as the sole facilitator for this Action Line building upon the ITU-D priority of fostering an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development that encourages investment in ICT infrastructure, and affordable access and increased adoption of telecommunication/ICTs. Through its convening platforms, ITU strengthens partnerships, engagement and collaboration of regulators, regulatory associations, private sector, and policy makers from across different sectors, enriching conversations and showcasing policy and regulatory mechanisms to accelerate digital transformation. ITU strengthens capacity to address the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation through training on effective policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and approaches to drive inclusive and cross-sectoral collaboration. In terms of cross-sectoral collaboration in most countries worldwide, multiple agencies have been established with mandates over digital transformation issues. They have been tackling the challenges of telecommunication markets and navigating digital transformation to unleash new benefits and opportunities for people, governments, and businesses. Despite the many efforts under way, many agencies fail to reach for and achieve whole-of-government and outcome-oriented collaboration. In this sense, there are marked differences between the level of regulatory collaboration across regions, based on the ITU Regulatory Survey, only a quarter of Arab States ICT regulators collaborated with data protection agencies in 2022, while three-quarters of European regulators did so. In the Africa region, two-thirds of ICT regulators collaborate with financial regulators opening the way to market of digital financial services, compared to fewer than half of ICT regulators in the Americas.[[2]](#footnote-3)1

ITU increases awareness and access to ICT data, econometric research, analysis, and tools to support evidence-based decision making and help stakeholders better understand the fast-moving landscape to address new challenges in the digital ecosystem, incentivize investment, and enable stronger market growth. See ITU’s [WSIS Action Line Roadmaps](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx).

1. **WSIS Action Lines (ITU as a co-facilitator)**

As a [co-facilitator](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/facilitators.html) since 2005, ITU has been contributing to the implementation of the following WSIS Action Lines: С1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; C3. Access to information and knowledge; C7. ICT Applications (e-government, e-business, e-learning, e-health, e-employment, e-environment, e-agriculture, e-science); and C11. International and regional cooperation. ITU has also been contributing to the implementation of other [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/focal_points_al.aspx#:~:text=ITU%20is%20focal%20point%2C%20assisted,and%20ETD%20(Mr%20Maloor).&text=UNESCO%20is%20the%20focal%20point%20with%20ITU%20as%20co%2Dfacilitator.), including: C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity, and local content; C9. Media; and C10. Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society.

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1. See the annual report of ITU contribution to the WSIS implementation here:   
   <https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 1 ITU Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023 (<https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/pref/D-PREF-BB.REG_OUT01-2023-PDF-E.pdf>) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)