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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 ITU Council in July 2023 on assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector in response to the modified ITU Council Resolution 1408, focusing on monitoring and reporting, coordination mechanisms, technical assistance, mobilization of resources, and capacity-building activities.**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**CHF 183 000 since 2022, including CHF 60 000 from the ITU budget, CHF 123 000 in monetary voluntary contributions, and CHF 20 000 in-kind contribution.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References**[*Council Resolution 1408*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0122/en) *(Modified, 2023);* [*C23/59*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0059/en) |

## 1. Introduction

At its last session, held in July 2023, the ITU Council amended the [Resolution 1408](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0122/en) on “**Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector**”. This report summarizes the actions the ITU secretariat has been undertaking to address the *resolves* of this resolution, in particular focusing on monitoring and reporting, coordination mechanisms, technical assistance, mobilization of resources and capacity-building activities.

## 2. Monitoring and reporting

With the aim of facilitating effective technical assistance, a constant monitoring of digital resilience in Ukraine was introduced. A special website, dedicated to the implementation of Resolution 1408, was kept 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).

ITU, as the United Nations (UN) Agency for Digital, continued to contribute to the regular exercise of **Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment Report (RDNA)**, facilitated by the European Commission, the World Bank and the UN. ITU’s input mainly focused on the chapter on “Telecommunications and Digital”. The 3rd edition of the RDNA[[1]](#footnote-2) was released on 15 February 2024 and serves as a guiding document for the international donor community to assist in Ukraine’s reconstruction process.

* The overall impact of war on the telecommunications and digital sector as of 31 December 2023, is estimated at USD 2.1 billion in damage, USD 2.27 billion in losses, and USD 4.67 billion in needs.
* **The total cost of damage to the sector is estimated to be USD 2.1 billion.** This figure includes damage of USD 950 million among fixed broadband operators, USD 899 million among mobile operators, USD 192 million among postal providers, and USD 51 million in the broadcasting sector.
* **The losses in the sector are estimated to be USD 2.27 billion**. This figure includes revenue losses due to disruptions of postal services and mobile and fixed internet services, as well as increased costs of the backup electricity generators needed for uninterrupted internet service provision.
* The total recovery and reconstruction needs in the sector are estimated at **USD 4.67 billion over 10 years.**

ITU continues to monitor the situation of the ICT and broadcasting sector. For the purposes of the technical assistance on broadcasting, ITU elaborates technical reports on “**Primary Assessment of the Rehabilitation Costs of Broadcasting Stations**”, being the tool for engaging with international donors’ community. Rehabilitation of first investigated broadcasting stations amounts around **USD 3.7 million, allowing to start providing the full broadcasting signal to over 5 million citizens.** Rebuilding of those stations will amount between **USD 5.5 million** and **USD 450 million** each and is to be considered after war finishes.

## 3. Coordination mechanisms for effective implementation

At the level of ITU, a **Special Task Force on Resolution 1408**, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and serviced by the ITU Office for Europe, continues to provide the platform for intersectoral response to all issues related to the implementation of this resolution.

With the aim of ensuring coordinated approach for ITU activities in response to the Resolution 1408, a series of coordination mechanisms have been put in place, as follows:

* Since September 2023 the **Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine** has been acting as Administration Member State for ITU. ITU conducts regular coordination calls with the official focal point.
* **State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection (SSSICP)** has been appointed by the Ministry to continue covering issues related to the assessment of the broadcasting infrastructure. Together with the SSSCIP **and the Broadcasting, Radiocommunications and Television Concern**, ITU formed the team tasked with the elaboration of “Primary Assessment of the Rehabilitation Costs for the five broadcasting stations”.
* Regular coordination is also carried out with **National Commission for the State Regulation** of Electronic Communications, Radio Frequency Spectrum and the Provision of Postal Services, providing to determine the areas of potential assistance in the field of enabling environment and regulation.
* As a member of the **UN Country Team**, ITU continues to coordinate all its actions with the UN system. ITU contributes to the implementation of the UN Transitional Framework for 2024 and currently contributes to the process of elaboration of the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2025-2029. In 2023-2024, ITU contributed to the SDG Inter-ministerial Sub-Working Groups (SDGs 9 and 17) that were performing the review of the indicator framework.
* ITU conducts regular coordination with the **European Commission** on its ongoing and planned activities in the field of ICT and broadcasting infrastructure reconstruction, also considering the progress Ukraine does towards European integration.
* ITU has established the coordination with the **European Investment Bank**, **Council of Europe** Registers of Damages for Ukraine team as well as the **European Broadcasting Union** to align the activities related to supporting Ukraine.
* ITU continues to work with Ukrainian Academia members on activities related broadcasting stations. In December 2023, ITU contributed to the **conference on “Advanced digital transformation technologies related to their implementation in the world and in Ukraine”** organized by State University of Information and Communication Technologies of Ukraine as a contribution to the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe.

## 4. Technical assistance

Building upon the needs assessment and coordination with Administration a series of actions have been carried out since the last ITU Council. This includes the following:

* Since September 2023 ITU has exercised efforts to provide the technical assistance to the reconstruction of the **broadcasting infrastructure in Ukraine.**
* Out of a total of 40 broadcasting stations affected to different extent by the war, 21 stations have suffered substantial damages. The number of occupied objects (without Autonomous Republic of Crimea) is 63.
* ITU has developed the series of initial project proposals for the restoration or reconstruction of the **5 most critical broadcasting stations** identified by the Ukrainian Administration. Such project proposals are based on the elaborated technical report “Primary Assessment of the Rehabilitation Costs of the identified five broadcasting stations: Kharkiv, Bilopyllya, Vinnytsia, Trostyanets, and Velyka Oleksandrivka”.
* According to the first phase of the assessment, the damages to the broadcasting stations affect **5.1 million of people limiting their full access to information**.
* To address the financial challenge of the rehabilitation of all five broadcasting stations to their full operational capacity, the international community is invited to consider pledging at least **USD 3.7 million**.
* The estimates associated with long-term reconstruction activities, aligned with a build-back-better approach, range from USD 5.5 million to 450 million per station, depending on the conceptual design of each station to be undertaken.
* Since February 2024, ITU moved to the second phase of assessment, continuing to assess the next 5 critical stations identified by the Ukrainian Administration, i.e. Kalynivka, Vynarivka, Luch, Blystova, and Antopil.

In coordination with and at the request of the **National Commission for the State Regulation** of Electronic Communications, Radio Frequency Spectrum and the Provision of Postal Services and the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, ITU has proposed the capacity-building activities to equip Ukrainian officials working on the telecommunication issues with required skills and knowledge. Building upon the expertise from three ITU Bureaux, the **Executive Training on Fifth Generation (5G) Implementation** for Ukrainian officials has been rolled-out in spring 2024. In addition, responding to theAdministration’s interest, a **series of trainings** was made available through the **ITU Academy**.

In the field of cybersecurity, ITU provides diverse opportunities for strengthening human capacities of Ukrainian experts, such as online trainings or ITU Cyberdrill for Europe, Asia, and the Pacific, held from 28 November to 1 December 2023 in Cyprus or Gobal Cyberdrill, 23-24 April 2024, in the United Arab Emirates.

ITU remains committed to foster the digitation in Ukraine in the cooperation with partners under umbrella of GovStack initiative. **The current engagement focuses on the Ukrainian Platform of Registers**. In partnership with ITU, GIZ carried out the tender on the **Diia.Engine** prototype development and the current stage of the tender is the selection of tender proposals.

## 5. Mobilization of resources

With the aim of facilitating technical assistance to the country, ITU continues to encourage the Member States and partners to pledge commitments and financial resources tailored to Ukraine’s needs with the number of strategic actions:

* ITU continues to apply Partner2Connect methodology, and the collection of pledges dedicated to support to Ukraine. During Council 2023, ITU contributed to the donors’ breakfast hosted by the Republic of Poland. Special sessions were planned to be held during the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) Com ITU Meeting (7-9 May 2024, Gdansk) and Ukraine Recovery Conference (11-12 June 2024, Berlin).
* As of 2024 overall envelope of collected commitments amounts to over USD 740 million. The list of pledges 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).
* ITU is engaged in further mobilization of the contributions to the Special Fund in Trust dedicated to the further implementation of Resolution 1408. For the time being the fund benefited from the contributions by Japan (CHF 100 000) and the Czech Republic (CHF 23 000).
* ITU has allocated CHF 20 000 from the operating budget annually to allow to continue the implementation work.
* ITU continues regular bilateral discussions with Member States and partners to safeguard the financial resources for the continuation of ITU operations related to Resolution 1408 and the rehabilitation of the broadcasting infrastructure required in accordance with the Primary Assessment of five broadcasting stations.

## 6. Conclusions

ITU has continued to build-up the activities aimed at the implementation of Resolution 1408 with strengthened partnerships and established well-coordinated mechanisms to advance on the roll-out of activities and mobilisation of financial resources.

All stakeholders are kindly invited to support global cooperation and activities of ITU in response to the Resolution 1408, in particular the following:

* committing to providing technical assistance and financial support to Ukraine for rebuilding of their telecommunication sector, in particular broadcasting infrastructure.
* joining Partner2Connect initiative and providing pledges focusing on Ukraine through online system available [here](https://www.itu.int/partner2connect-pledges).
* providing a financial contribution to the Special Fund in Trust, enabling the continuation and scaling-up of the implementation of Resolution 1408.

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1. <https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-02/UA%20RDNA3%20report%20EN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)