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|  | **Document C24/116-E** |
| **3 September 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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| **SUMMARY RECORD**  **OF THE**  **SIXTH PLENARY MEETING** | |
| Monday, 10 June 2024, from 1435 to 1745 hours  **Chair**: Mr F. SAUVAGE (France) | |

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|  | **Subjects discussed** | **Documents** |
| 1 | Report of the Chair of CWG-WSIS&SDG on the outcomes of the 39th and 40th meetings | [C24/8(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0008/en) |
| 2 | Draft WSIS+20 report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes | [C24/60](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0060/en), [C24/82](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0082/en) |
| 3 | Report of the Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection | [C24/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0015/en), [C24/102](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0102/en) |
| 4 | Oral reports by councillors on ongoing informal consultations and update on the United Nations Secretary-General's visit to the ITU Council | - |

# 1 Report of the Chair of CWG-WSIS&SDG on the outcomes of the 39th and 40th meetings (Document [C24/8(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0008/en))

1.1 The Chair of the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society and Sustainable Development Goals (CWG-WSIS&SDG) introduced the report in Document C24/8(Rev.1), which summarized the main results of the group’s 39th and 40th meetings, and shared her observations as Chair of CWG-WSIS&SDG on the recent WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 held in May. Annex A to the document contained a proposed revision to Council Resolution 1332 (C11, last modified C23) to incorporate the latest developments related to the WSIS process, including the outcomes of the High-Level Event, and to lay the foundations for an open and inclusive preparatory process for the WSIS+20 review.

1.2 Many councillors took the floor to express appreciation for the report and for the successful organization of the recent WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event, and to reaffirm their commitment to the WSIS process. They reiterated the importance of the WSIS process, and the lessons to be learned from the implementation of its outcomes. Two councillors highlighted the need to align work on the WSIS process with that on the Global Digital Compact (GDC); both initiatives should complement and reinforce one another, in order to avoid duplication and maximize the impact of collective efforts. A third councillor encouraged Member States to contribute to the WSIS Trust Fund.

1.3 Several councillors expressed their support for the proposed amendment to Council Resolution 1332. The multistakeholder preparatory platform (MPP) was a proven mechanism that would allow all stakeholders to participate in the overall review process. It would serve to take on board the latest developments, complement the work, *inter alia*, of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), and consolidate ITU’s leading role.

1.4 Several other councillors expressed reservations, however, believing that the proposed initiation of an MPP was premature. ITU’s role was adequately formulated in Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, Resolution 1332 had been amended only recently, and they would not want to add a parallel process. Accordingly, they wished to have more time to consider the proposal.

1.5 In the light of the discussion, the Chair invited the Council to note Document C24/8(Rev.1) and suggested that the Chair of CWG-WSIS&SDG hold informal consultations on the proposed modifications to Resolution 1332 and report back to a future plenary meeting.

1.6 It was so **agreed**.

# 2 Draft WSIS+20 report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes (Documents [C24/60](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0060/en), [C24/82](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0082/en))

2.1 A representative of the General Secretariat introduced Document C24/60, containing the draft WSIS+20 report on 20 years of contribution by ITU towards the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs. The final report would be submitted by the ITU Secretary-General in the context of the overall WSIS+20 review to the 2025 session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and CSTD, and to Council-25 through CWG-WSIS&SDG. She then gave a presentation on the recent WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event. The event, which had covered a broad spectrum of topics, including cybersecurity and trust, artificial intelligence (AI), emerging technologies, meaningful access to infrastructure as well as content, and digital divides, had been a great success, receiving considerable local, national and regional media coverage. The Chair's summary had been sent to the United Nations Secretary-General and the co-facilitators of GDC.

2.2 The Chair thanked Switzerland for co-hosting and chairing the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024. The councillor from Switzerland outlined the Chair’s summary of the High-Level event, contained in Document [C24/INF/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-INF-0018/en), which emphasized the continuing relevance of the WSIS outcomes going forward towards the Summit of the Future and beyond, and that the existing WSIS structures should be further strengthened and leveraged through GDC and in support of its implementation.

2.3 The observer from the Russian Federation introduced the contribution contained in Document C24/82, which proposed that the draft WSIS+20 report contained in Document C24/60 be considered as a first draft to be supplemented with important additional information on the huge amount of work conducted by the Union to implement the WSIS outcomes; on the relevant annual and detailed reports of ITU on WSIS implementation, the Partnership on measuring ICT for development and the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development; on achievement of the 10 targets for the Geneva Plan of Action, the challenges posed by the implementation of the action lines and the objectives that could not be met; and on proposals for the WSIS vision beyond 2025. As the draft report had not been submitted for the consideration of CWG-WSIS&SDG, there had been no opportunity to provide comments beforehand. Given that the CSTD annual session would be held before the WSIS+20 High-level Event 2025, the report should be finalized during the CWG WSIS&SDG meetings that are planned for October 2024 and January 2025. That view was supported by another councillor.

2.4 The representative of the General Secretariat confirmed in response that the report in Document C24/60 was a living document that would continue to be updated, and that all comments for the inclusion of additional information would be welcomed, notably at the upcoming CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings.

2.5 Many councillors expressed appreciation for the report and for the successful organization of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024. A number of councillors underlined the important role played by ITU in the WSIS process, which continued to be relevant, and congratulated the Union on its achievements, which should be flagged more broadly within the United Nations system. More mention could be made in the report of those achievements and of the many WSIS-related webinars, seminars, prizes, awards and other events that had taken place. Appreciation was expressed for the multistakeholder nature of the WSIS process. One councillor said it was important for the process to trickle down to every region.

2.6 Several councillors pointed out, however, that more work remained to be done. Some of the WSIS outcomes had been achieved, but not all. Progress must be tracked using indicators, and enhanced data analytics could provide better insight into the impact of ICT initiatives and help tailor strategies more effectively. Efforts should continue towards bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to ICT for all, and the role of ICT in achieving the SDGs, particularly in the areas of education, health care and economic growth, should be strengthened. Greater participation by ITU was required in work on cybersecurity.

2.7 It was essential to ensure that the WSIS process and the GDC were aligned in order to deliver coherent and effective global digital governance. The WSIS Process thus has an important role to play in the negotiations on the compact. In that regard, one councillor suggested that the GDC draft might be reworded to clarify the relationship between the WSIS process and the GDC, whereby the latter would be reinforcing the former rather than the other way round, given that ITU’s work on the digital divide had been launched long ago at PP98 and the WSIS process had been under way for many years already.

2.8 The Council **noted** the report, on the understanding that the secretariat would take into account the feedback from Member States in working towards the final draft, which would be submitted to Council-25.

# 3 Report of the Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection (Documents [C24/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0015/en) and [C24/102](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0102/en))

3.1 The Chair of the Council Working Group on child online protection (CWG-COP) introduced Document C24/15, containing his report on the outcome of the group’s 19th and 20th meetings, held in October 2023 and January 2024, respectively. The latter meeting had been devoted to the theme of legislative frameworks to address online safety for children and young people. Both meetings had elicited record numbers of contributions, setting out valuable country and industry experiences for protecting children online. CWG-COP had sent two liaison statements, and had prepared a draft resolution, based on a text submitted by the Philippines, on encouraging ITU Member States and Sector Members, through ITU, to prioritize, mainstream and strengthen child online protection activities by way of specific programmes such as the celebration of Girls in ICT Day, which was contained in the annex to the document.

3.2 Recognizing the vital importance of ensuring secure ICTs and networks that safeguarded all citizens, in particular vulnerable groups and children, councillors commended the excellent work accomplished by CWG-COP. One councillor stressed that the group must be given an adequate allocation of meeting time to address the many contributions received. Another councillor reported that, in response to the liaison statement from CWG-COP, ITU-T Study Group 17 had formed a correspondence group to identify the scope of standardization and any standards gaps in relation to child online protection.

3.3 Councillors expressed support for the draft new resolution in annex to Document C24/15. Responding to a request for clarification regarding allocation of the necessary resources referred to in *resolves* 2, the councillor from the Philippines said that the intent was to encourage Member States to provide the much-needed resources to complement those allocated through ITU and by the global community, as the protection of children online should be carried out at the national, as well as global, level.

3.4 The Council **approved** Document C24/15 and **adopted** the new resolution in the annex thereto.

3.5 The councillor of the United Arab Emirates introduced a multicountry contribution on behalf of five Member States, contained in Document C24/102, which proposed modifications to Council Resolution 1306 (C09, last amended C15) to incorporate the revisions introduced in Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference. The contribution emphasized the importance of broadening multistakeholder engagement and strengthening the role of CWG-COP.

3.6 Several councillors supported the proposed amendments to Council Resolution 1306, one observer noting that it had been several years since the last revision and modifications were thus needed in order to take into account the important changes in technology that had occurred. Other councillors, however, while agreeing on the need for a revision, raised concerns that the wording used in several sections of the document could exclude diverse stakeholders from participating in CWG-COP. The group should be as open as possible, given the importance and positive contribution of all the different parties in its work. The text of the resolution would need to be refined in places to that end.

3.7 The Chair of CWG-COP, responding to the concerns raised, explained that the wording in the draft revision of Resolution 1306 was based on Resolution 179 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), and thus was not new text. Nor did the wording limit participation to ITU members only: as stated in *resolves* 1.2 and 2, CWG-COP would continue to serve as a platform for discussion and exchange of best practices from the ITU membership and other relevant stakeholders, and all relevant stakeholders would be able to participate in and contribute to the group’s work. However, in respect of *resolves* 1.1, it should be borne in mind that only ITU members had the authority to advise and guide the Council on ITU's role in child online protection.

3.8 In the light of the discussion, the Chair suggested that the councillor from the United Arab Emirates be requested to conduct informal discussions to take into account the comments made during the debate and submit an agreed revision of the text to a future plenary meeting.

3.9 It was so **agreed**.

# 4 Oral reports by councillors on ongoing informal consultations and update on the United Nations Secretary-General's visit to the ITU Council

4.1 At the request of the Chair, the councillors leading the informal consultations on several items (climate action and environmental sustainability; preparations for WTPF-26; assistance and support to Palestine; and AI technologies and ICTs) provided status reports on the consultations, which were all progressing.

4.2 The Chair provided an update on the arrangements for the upcoming visit by the United Nations Secretary-General planned for Wednesday, 12 June 2024. Questions put forward by the regions would be asked in turn, and each regional group was requested to appoint a councillor from their region to ask its question on its behalf. In reply to an intervention by the councillor from Cuba, he clarified that the regional coordinators had been identified on the basis of the administrative regions of the ITU Council, not the regional telecommunication organizations, and suggested that she contact the regional coordinator for Council Region A in regard to the text of the question from that region.

The Secretary-General: The Chair:

D. BOGDAN-MARTIN F. SAUVAGE

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