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|  | **Document C24/142-E** |
| **14 June 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
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RESOLUTION 1429

(adopted at the twelfth Plenary meeting)

ITU role in facilitating ICTs’ contribution to sustainability and climate action

The ITU Council,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* the outcomes of conferences under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the Paris Agreement of COP21, the Glasgow Climate Pact of COP26, and the Dubai COP28 UAE Consensus, in particular the Global Stocktake;

*c)* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

*d)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, particularly ITU Target 2.5 of the Connect 2030 Agenda (Significant improvement of ICTs’ contribution to climate and environment action);

*e)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and protection of the environment;

*f)* Resolution 73 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), on information and communication technologies, environment, climate change and circular economy;

*g)* Resolution 79 (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, on the role of telecommunications/ ICTs in handling and controlling e-waste from telecommunication and information technology equipment and methods of treating it;

*h)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy,

noting

*a)* ITU activities on climate change and environmental sustainability such as Green Digital Action and other relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives;

*b)* ITU collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders in this regard; particularly by liaising with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Presidencies of the COPs;

*c)* ongoing relevant work within ITU-T Study Group 5,

recognizing

*a)* that climate change and biodiversity loss and pollution represent significant challenges of our time and that addressing them requires progress towards sustainable development;

*b)* that environmental issues are part of the broader concept of sustainability including economic and social dimensions;

*c)* that limiting global warming requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances;

*d)* the importance of leveraging digital technologies for achieving the ultimate objectives of the UNFCCC, in the context of sustainable development;

*e)* that ICTs can have an enabling effect in reducing GHG emissions generated by other sectors of the economy;

*f)* that efforts also need to be taken to reduce emissions of ICTs;

*g)* that more information and capacity building can enhance the progress towards ITU Target 2.5 for the Union's Connect 2030 Agenda;

*h)* that it is still challenging to estimate the ICT sector environmental impact, at a worldwide level;

*i)* that ITU is uniquely positioned to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to boost ICTs’ contribution to sustainable and climate resilient development activities,

resolves

1 to encourage ITU to generate awareness and to develop knowledge on both the environmental benefits and improvement of ICTs' contribution to climate and environment action;

2to encourage ITU efforts, within its mandate, aimed at improvement of ICTs' contribution to climate and environmental action leveraging the ITU’s sustainable development activities;

3to encourage the ICT sector to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the ITU’s related efforts;

4 to support work towards identifying ICT sustainability best practices including assessing their environmental contribution;

5to encourage the ITU to continue supporting in particular developing countries in capacity-building for sustainable and climate-resilient development of the ICT sector,

instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux,

1 to raise ambition for ITU efforts, within its mandate, in matters related to this resolution, bringing together key stakeholders to scale ITU activities and solutions;

2 to enhance collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders in this regard;

3 to promote the adoption of new and emerging ICTs across economic sectors to enhance their environmental sustainability;

4 to further study the contribution of ICTs on climate change and environmental sustainability;

5 to undertake necessary actions directed towards the involvement of all ITU Membership in the implementation of this resolution and to support ITU Member States, in particular developing countries, in building capacity in this regard;

6 to report to Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates, and Academia

1 to promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs across economic sectors;

2 to acknowledge the importance for sharing studies and best practices, on voluntary basis, on mitigating ICT sector emissions, as well as use ICTs to reduce emissions, to align with national climate and environmental targets;

3 to contribute to the studies on facilitating ICT’s contribution to sustainability and climate action;

4 to recognize the need for the support for increased innovation capabilities for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient development of the ICT sector, in particular in developing countries;

5 to consider supporting and participating actively in the Bureaus activities on sustainable development and the intersectoral related efforts, such as Green Digital Action initiative;

6 to consider ITU recommendations to tackle sustainability challenges such as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, enabling the carbon neutrality as well as e-waste and to promote smart sustainable cities and communities.

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