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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/11** |
| **19 January 2024** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution from Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of), China (People’s republic of), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), South Africa (Republic of), Tanzania (United Republic of), Uganda (Republic of) | |
| PROPOSAL ON ENCOURAGING MEMBER STATES’ INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ITU IN DIGITAL-RELATED ACTIVITIES | |
| **Purpose**  This proposal attempts to help the ITU to encourage Member States to contribute to the work of the Union towards the UN processes and activities that are important for fulfilling ITU’s WSIS&SDGs-related mandate.  **Action required**  Members are invited to **consider** the proposal and **take actions** accordingly.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [PP Resolution 140 (Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en); [Council Resolution 1334 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en); [ITU’s Inputs to the Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_ITU.pdf) | |

**Introduction**

The ITU has been active in contributing to digital-related activities that are relevant to WSIS and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and initiated iconic activities, which keeps enhancing the Union's influence. With the Union being the specialized agency for ICTs in the UN system, such activities have profound landmark significance to the world.

Member States are essential contributors to the Union and are key drivers of the Council. Participation of Member States are cornerstones of the ITU’s valuable activities both by the nature of the Union and by the resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Council of the Union. PP Resolution 140 states that “the full involvement of the membership, including Sector Members, Associates and Academia, as well as other stakeholders, is critical to successful ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes”. By analogy, it is also important for ITU to keep abreast of what is happening within related thematic external processes to successfully implement relevant WSIS outcomes, which by now is especially important in preparation for WSIS+20 overall review.

However, the involvement of Member States in the participation of the ITU in digital processes needs to be improved at present. To take a few major events for example, the ITU’s inputto the Global Digital Compact (GDC) in April 2023 and the ITU’s organizing the SDG Digital event on 17th September 2023 were great opportunities to comprehensively present its achievement and considerations on hot topics in the field of ICTs. Yet only a few Member States participated in producing the outcomes.

**Discussion**

Considering the wide scope and inter-sector feature of many digital processes that are related to WSIS&SDGs, their content often exceeds the capability of the designated focal departments of Member States. Due to information lag and asymmetry, some Member States may lack interest in following potentially valuable processes, or unfortunately miss the opportunity to participate.

To incentivize Member States to contribute to the Union actively, the Union needs to proactively keep Member States informed, and provide convenience for interested Member States to contribute.

The answer to how to incorporate the opinions of Member States depends on the specific needs and circumstances of each type of activities. Therefore, it is necessary to assess in advance the impact of the activities and expected supports from Member States.

**Proposal**

It is proposed that the General Secretariat carries out the following work on a regular basis:

1. For processes or activities related to WSIS, 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and global digital governance, which the ITU wishes to host or attend, particularly the high-levels, the General Secretariat should prepare an annual plan of participation (hereinafter "the plan"). The plan should be presented to Member States through the official meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG during the first cluster of CWGs & EGs of a calendar year.

2. The plan should include: (1) impact of the activities, (2) source of human resources in the ITU, and/or knowledge support from third parties, such as consultancies; (3) form of participation, such as hosting the events, attending the events, submitting written contributions, and signing of the outcome documents.

3. For activities that the General Secretariat deems important and requires that Member States urgently contribute to, the General Secretariat should inform Member States in advance by circular letter as early as possible and organize consultations in an appropriate form, towards the end that Member States are sufficiently engaged.

4. The General Secretariat should prepare a summary report and submit to the official meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG during the first cluster of CWGs & EGs of the next calendar year, where Member States could propose advice of improvement.

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