



Department of Telecommunications  
Ministry of Communications  
Government of India



# International Telecommunication Union and Sustainable Development Goals

**ITUEvents**

ITU Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) on

## **“Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications /ICTs”**

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Hosted by:



Organized by:



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# “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

- UNGA Resolution

[https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

A collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".

The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

They are included in a UN-GA Resolution called the 2030 Agenda or what is colloquially known as Agenda 2030.

The SDGs were developed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda as the future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals which were ended in 2015.

# SDG-specific strategies, plans or work programs



- ITU partnerships (Memorandums of Understanding, Joint Declarations, etc.) put strong focus on impacts on the SDGs, in often referring very clearly to their cross-cutting nature and respective mandates.
- For example partnerships have been created with UNIDO (SDG 9), FAO (SDG 2), WHO (SDG 3) the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and an e-waste coalition (SDG 12), as well as projects and activities addressing specific SDG Targets like ITU's Gender Equality activities such as the EQUALS Partnership (SDG5).
- ITU activities in support of the SDGs are also closely monitored, tracked and reported at numerous levels, including in a dedicated online platform [www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool](http://www.itu.int/sdgmappingtool)

# Standardisation

- Fundamental Pillar of ITU activities
- There is always some ITU standard for Connecting to the internet, watching TV, listening to radio, Telephony in all its forms
- Interoperability,
- Opens up global markets & Promotes innovation and growth
- Good for developed and developing countries and all stakeholders
- Helps harnessing ICTs in accelerating SDGs
- Member driven-Contributions+ Consensus +Collaboration +Inclusion

# Normative, analytical, technical assistance or capacity building activities



- Assistance to national entities in developing innovative strategies, policies, and regulations aimed at leveraging ICTs in development work that supports the SDGs.
- **Apart from Bridging the standardization gap-** free online access policy for dissemination of ITU publications to a broader public, especially in developing countries with financial and technical constraints.
- Publications in regulation, statistics, capacity building, National Emergency Telecommunications Plans, Spectrum Management, Digital Transformation and e-waste management.
- These include publications on, for instance, ITU Standards, the use of telecommunications /ICTs for ensuring disaster preparedness, early warning, rescue, mitigation, relief and response, to build smart sustainable cities, to tackle climate change and achieve a circular economy, and the establishment of modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure to further foster the development of innovative products and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development.

# Mainstreaming the SDGs in sectoral strategies, including specific SDG/target strategies

- Support the WSIS process in its promotion of efforts to leverage ICTs for sustainable development (see the [WSIS-SDG Matrix](#) linking WSIS Action Lines with the SDGs), highlighting areas where these efforts will receive support from the international standards developed by ITU-T.
- TSB continues to map ITU-T objectives, outputs and results to the SDG goals and targets and the WSIS Action Lines.
- Currently, no international comprehensive methodology exists to assess the environmental impact of information and communication technology (ICT) at sector level, or to assess the aggregated positive effects of the ICT sector on other sectors of the economy.
- Without a standard methodology evaluating the positive impacts of ICT, the role of ICTs in the fight against global warming will be only partially perceived.
- Recommendation ITU-T L.1451 (11/2019) “Methodology for assessing the aggregated positive sector-level impacts of ICT in other sectors” addresses the need to contribute to achieve the targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specially its Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG13), the Connect 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement from a global perspective. This Recommendation addresses the opportunity to use a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model as a possible methodology for simultaneously assessing the environmental and economic impacts of ICTs at sectoral level.



# Data and statistical capacity building



- Data and Capacity-building activities for the completion of the ITU reports;.
- National and regional statistical and data skills development workshops ,
- Two Expert Groups on Data and Statistics namely; Expert Group on Telecommunications Indicators and Expert Group on Household Indicators
- Use of Big Data for capacity building in health, development and other areas of application. the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity development at a global level. The GCI is also used to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of cybersecurity efforts. As cybersecurity has a broad field of application, cutting across many industries and various sectors, each country's level of development or engagement is assessed along five pillars – (i) Legal Measures, (ii) Technical Measures, (iii) Organizational Measures, (iv) Capacity Building, and (v) Cooperation.

# Harnessing science, technology and innovation for the SDGs

- ITU-T Focus Group on "Environmental Efficiency for Artificial Intelligence and other Emerging Technologies" (FG-AI4EE) was established by [ITU-T Study Group 5](#)
- FG-AI4EE works to identify the standardization needs to develop a sustainable approach to AI and other emerging technologies including automation, augmented reality, virtual reality, extended reality, smart manufacturing, industry 5.0, cloud/edge computing, nanotechnology, 5G, among others.
- The focus group will develop technical reports and technical specifications to address the environmental efficiency aspect of emerging technologies and provide guidance to stakeholders on how to operate these technologies in a more environmentally efficient manner in order to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
- WSIS Forum organizes Hackathons since 2017 and continued to do so with different themes that underline SDG Goals. These initiatives aim to generate innovative and actionable solutions in addressing different challenges for the implementation of the SDGs. The theme of the Hackathon for 2020 is Smart Sustainable Cities. The hackathon will focus on hacking Smart and Sustainable solutions for cities around the globe. #Hack4SmartSustainableCities will identify and support innovative solutions to address cities challenges globally.





# Multi-stakeholder partnerships



- The mainstreaming of the SDGs throughout ICT activities is evident through the myriad of resolutions within ITU Sector activities that specifically or tacitly refer to SDG Goals, Targets or Indicators. Numerous Partnerships such as Memorandums of Understanding and Joint Declarations. In addition, ITU is a key partner in Partnerships which directly impact on the SDGs, such as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the EQUALS Partnership.
- Key partner to many Member States, Sector Members and organizations in the area of Cybersecurity development with partnerships such as the World Bank, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), World Economic Forum (WEF), European Cybersecurity Organization (ECSO), Silensec, Guardtime, etc.
- Partnerships with Governments, Private Sector, Development Banks, Foundations, and other development partners for co-financing of projects, and co-organizing of events aimed at capacity building and knowledge-sharing and to finance activities and projects that are catalytic to the attainment of the SDGs.
- WSIS Forum ([www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)) has established a successful example of a global multistakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The agenda and program of the annual WSIS Forum were designed completely crowdsourced by multistakeholder community, representing the government, private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

# Leveraging interlinkages across SDG goals and targets

- For ITU the main SDG target is SDG 9c “Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”.
- Indeed, ITU’s contribution to the achievement of the SDGs requires access to ICTs (Information Communication Technologies) and the internet.
- Consequently, ITU is often leveraging linkages across SDGs and is a key partner in Partnerships such as the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development and the EQUALS Partnership, which address links between SDGs.

# Supporting policies and strategies to leave no one behind

- The intergovernmental body responsible for coordinating the shared global use of the radio spectrum, promoting international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, improving communication infrastructure in the developing world, and establishing the worldwide standards that foster seamless interconnection of a vast range of communications systems to connect all.
- ITU, together with its membership, is committed to connecting the world and contributing to the UN Decade of Action to achieve the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To enable this vision, ITU counts with its Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 ([Resolution 71, Rev. 2018, Dubai](#) and [the Connect 2030 Agenda \(Resolution 200, Rev. 2018, Dubai\)](#)) which are based on 5 strategic Goals: Growth, Inclusiveness, Sustainability, Innovation, and Partnerships. Each Goal has its own indicators that measure the progress towards this shared vision. (Related links: [Connect 2030 Agenda](#); [Buenos Aires Declaration](#)).



# Reducing disaster risk and building resilience



- ITU Member States have committed that all countries should have a national emergency telecommunication preparedness action plan, framework, legislation or policy statement identifying and listing their national goals and objectives in relation to natural disasters and emergencies, and how to go about protecting populations, national infrastructure and systems in the event of natural disaster.
- In addition, with its Sector Members and industry associations, ITU is developing a roadmap to address climate changes challenges, such as the increased use and new developments of technologies and the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with them, including the energy efficiency of networks and devices and GHG abatement.
- Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications (GET-19) - Innovating together to save lives: using technologies in disaster management, brought together key players in disaster risk reduction and management.
- ITU also joined the Crisis Connectivity Charter in September 2019.

# Reducing disaster risk and building resilience

- [Emergency Telecommunications homepage](#)
- [Policy and Regulatory experiences and best practices that can improve COVID-19 responses](#)
- [Emergency Radiocommunications](#)
- [Emergency telecommunications Backgrounder](#)
- [Energy efficiency homepage](#)
- [ICT industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent by 2030](#)

# Supporting international cooperation and enhancing the global partnership



- [WSIS Forum](#)
- [AI for Good Global Summit](#)
- [AI for Good Global Summit partners](#)
- [ITU Digital World](#)
- [U4SSC](#)
- [GIGA: Connecting every school to the Internet](#)
- [BeHe@lthy BeMobile](#)
- [e-Agriculture](#)
- [Policy and Regulatory experiences and best practices that can improve COVID-19 responses](#)

# Other initiatives

- The dedicated microsite (<http://www.itu.int/ict4sdg>) on ICTs for the SDGs is also a repository of resources addressing the cross-cutting enabling role of ICTs for SDGs.
- Global Response to Covid-19
- COVID-19 [Global Education Coalition](#) led by UNESCO
- Existing Digital Divide and bridging it
- Harnessing ICTs for Financial Inclusion
- Digital health
- Key contributor to the high-level political forum (HLPF) for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

# Other initiatives

- [Global Network Resiliency Platform \(REG4COVID\)](#)
- The Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development - [Agenda for Action](#)
- ITU joined the World Bank, GSMA and the World Economic Forum for [Digital Development Joint Action Plan and Call for Action](#)
- Joint initiative of ITU and WHO, with support from UNICEF-  
Be Healthy Be Mobile
- Joint work with other UN and other stake holders on Climate change
- The [United for Smart Sustainable Cities](#) — a UN initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat, and supported by other 14 UN bodies



THANK YOU

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