

RESOLUTION 200 (REV. BUCHAREST, 2022)

Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/information and communication technology, including broadband, for sustainable development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Bucharest, 2022),

recalling

- a) the purposes of the Union as enshrined in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution;
- b) the commitment by all Member States of the United Nations to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related targets, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in Resolution 70/1;
- c) the call for close alignment between the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in UNGA Resolution 70/125;
- d) the targets set by WSIS, which served as global references for improving access to and use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in promoting the objectives of the Geneva Plan of Action, the WSIS action lines and the SDGs in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be achieved by 2030;

e) § 98 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which encourages strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders and welcomes, in that respect, the ITU-led Connect the World initiative;

f) the 2025 global broadband targets of the ITU/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to support "Connecting the Other Half";

g) the Connect 2020 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT development agreed by ITU Member States at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) initially adopted in Resolution 200 (Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,

considering

a) the Union's dual responsibility as the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications/ICTs and executing agency for implementing related projects under the United Nations development system;

b) the United Nations system-wide implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts towards achieving the SDGs and the WSIS action lines;

c) the role of ITU as a United Nations specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute towards the worldwide efforts to achieve the SDGs and the WSIS action lines;

d) that the economic and social disruption, as well as the health emergency, caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is devastating and has put many lives at risk,

recognizing

a) the WSIS outcome documents, in particular the Geneva Plan of Action (2003) and the Tunis Agenda (2005);

- b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes, and the ITU's preparatory process for the WSIS+20 review;
- c) the outcomes of the Connect series summits (Connect Africa, Connect Commonwealth of Independent States, Connect Americas, Connect Arab States and Connect Asia-Pacific) under the Connect the World global multistakeholder initiative set up within the context of WSIS;
- d) the Kigali Declaration adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) and the Kigali Action Plan and relevant WTDC-22 resolutions, including Resolutions 30 and 37 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), as well as Resolutions 135, 139 and 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference;
- e) Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of this conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027;
- f) ITU's leading role as a United Nations specialized agency in telecommunications/ICTs in the era of the global COVID-19 pandemic, launching new initiatives, work programmes and guidelines,

recognizing further

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are a key enabler to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development, while the spread of ICTs and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies;
- b) that accelerating broadband development is a considerable challenge, especially in hard-to-reach, rural and remote areas where topography and demography make the return on investment challenging;
- c) that investments in telecommunication/ICT services and technologies should also focus on all stages of development and deployment, including their mobilization for sustainable development at later stages;

- d) that affordability is one of the major barriers to connectivity for the most vulnerable and excluded populations, especially for persons with disabilities and indigenous communities;
- e) the need to sustain current achievements and intensify efforts in promoting and financing telecommunications/ICTs for development;
- f) the global challenges of the rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT environment;
- g) the need for broadband connectivity for sustainable development;
- h) that the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has not only highlighted the critical role of telecommunications/ICTs for the continued functioning of societies but has also brought to the fore the digital inequalities between and within countries;
- i) that this crisis and its impact might affect the implementation and achievement of the goals of the Connect 2030 Agenda and SDGs,

resolves

- 1 to reaffirm a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication sector, under the Connect 2030 Agenda envisaging an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone;
- 2 to endorse the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan for the Union and global broadband targets, inspiring and inviting all stakeholders and entities to work together to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 3 to call upon Member States to continue leveraging telecommunications/ICTs as a key enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs that integrate in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

4 to reaffirm the critical role of telecommunications/ICTs in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and to further promote universal, secure, reliable and affordable connectivity in this regard, so that it contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

instructs the Secretary-General

1 to monitor progress towards achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda, leveraging data, among others, from the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database and the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;

2 to disseminate information and share knowledge and best practices on national, regional and international initiatives contributing to the Connect 2030 Agenda;

3 to further facilitate implementation of the WSIS action lines and achievement of the SDGs assigned to the responsibility of ITU, in accordance with the Connect 2030 Agenda;

4 to present annual consolidated progress reports to the ITU Council and four-year consolidated progress reports to the Plenipotentiary Conference;

5 to bring this resolution to the attention of all interested parties, including, in particular, UNGA, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic and Social Council, for cooperation in its implementation;

6 to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries¹, in their active engagement with regard to *resolves* 3 of this resolution;

7 to support Member States in identifying any new challenges, difficulties or tasks arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and relating to the implementation of this resolution and in taking appropriate measures to address these issues in a timely manner,

¹ These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

to report on progress towards achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the work of each Sector, as elaborated in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, that contributes to the Connect 2030 Agenda,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to coordinate the collection, provision and dissemination of indicators and statistics that measure and provide comparative analysis of progress towards achievement of the targets of the strategic plan for the Union, especially related to unserved and underserved areas, and regularly report on the progress through analytical publications and online data tools,

instructs the ITU Council

- 1 to review the annual progress achieved towards the accomplishment of the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 2 to present an assessment of the progress towards achieving the Connect 2030 Agenda to the next plenipotentiary conference,

invites the Member States

- 1 to participate actively in the implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda, and contribute with national, regional and international initiatives;
- 2 to invite all other stakeholders to contribute and work together towards the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 3 to provide data and statistics, as appropriate, to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda;
- 4 to report national progress towards achievement of the Connect 2030 Agenda, and contribute to the database that will collect and disseminate information on national and regional initiatives contributing to the Connect 2030 Agenda;

5 to ensure that ICTs are central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by being acknowledged as an important tool to achieve its overall SDGs and the WSIS action lines;

6 to contribute to the work of ITU, as elaborated in the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, that contributes to the Connect 2030 Agenda;

7 to take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on telecommunications/ ICTs in the implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda and work together with other Member States and stakeholders by sharing information, experience and expertise in this regard,

invites Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to take an active role towards implementing the Connect 2030 Agenda,

invites all stakeholders

to contribute with their initiatives and their experience, qualifications and expertise to the successful implementation of the Connect 2030 Agenda.

(Busan, 2014) – (Rev. Dubai, 2018) – (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)
