RESOLUTION 140 (REV. DUBAI, 2018)

ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Dubai, 2018),

recalling

a)   Resolution 73 (Minneapolis, 1998) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which achieved its aims in regard to the holding of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

b)   the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Geneva Plan of Action, adopted in 2003, and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted in 2005, all of which were endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

c)   UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA High-Level Meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

d)   UNGA Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

e)   the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and vision for WSIS beyond 2015, which were adopted at the ITU-coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014), based on the Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (MPP) process, together with other United Nations agencies and inclusive of all WSIS stakeholders, were endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and were submitted to the UNGA overall review;

f)   Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and in the UNGA overall review of their implementation,

considering

a)   that ITU plays a fundamental role in providing global perspectives on the development of the information society;

b)   the role played by ITU in the successful organization of the two phases of WSIS and its coordination of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event;

c)   that the core competences of ITU in the field of information and communication technologies (ICTs) – assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio-spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information – are of crucial importance for building the information society, as stated in § 64 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles;

d)   that the Tunis Agenda stated that "*each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies, and pursuant to decisions of their respective governing bodies, and within existing approved resources*" (§ 102b);

e)   the establishment of a United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the request of the Summit, with the main objective of coordinating substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations' implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and that ITU is a permanent member of UNGIS, and shares a rotating chairmanship thereof;

f)   that ITU, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are playing lead facilitation roles in the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda, as called upon by WSIS;

g)   that ITU is the moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and C6 (Enabling environment) of the Tunis Agenda, and a potential partner for a number of other action lines, as identified by WSIS;

h)   that Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference endorsed the high-level strategic goals and targets set out in the strategic plan of the Union and global broadband targets to implement the Connect 2030 Agenda;

i)   that ITU is given specific responsibility for maintaining the WSIS stocktaking database (§ 120 of the Tunis Agenda);

j)   that ITU is capable of providing expertise relevant to the Internet Governance Forum as demonstrated during the WSIS process (§ 78a) of the Tunis Agenda);

k)   that ITU has, *inter alia*, specific responsibility to study and report on international Internet connectivity (§§ 27 and 50 of the Tunis Agenda);

l)   that ITU has a specific responsibility to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radio-frequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements (§ 96 of the Tunis Agenda);

m)   that "*building an inclusive development-oriented information society will require unremitting multistakeholder effort … Taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society, effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and United Nations and other international organizations, according to their roles and responsibilities and leveraging on their expertise, is essential*" (§ 83 of the Tunis Agenda);

n)   that the vision of an information society cannot be achieved without embracing the principle of inclusiveness in all efforts to promote and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

considering further

a)   that ITU and other international organizations should continue to cooperate and coordinate their activities where necessary for the global good;

b)   the need for ITU to evolve constantly in response to changes in the telecommunication/ICT environment and, in particular, in respect of evolving technologies and new regulatory challenges;

c)   the needs of developing countries[1], including in the areas of harnessing ICT for sustainable development and bridging the digital divide, building telecommunication/ICT infrastructure enabling the growth of the digital economy, strengthening confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICT and implementation of the other WSIS goals;

d)   the need for ITU to use its resources and expertise for implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

e)   the need to efficiently deploy the Union's human and financial resources in a manner consistent with the priorities of the membership and cognizant of budgetary constraints, and the need to avoid duplication among the Bureaux and the General Secretariat;

f)   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;

g)   that the strategic plan for the Union for 2020-2023 set out in Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of this conference contains a commitment to and priorities for implementation of the relevant WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

h)   that the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG-WSIS) constitutes an effective mechanism for facilitating Member State inputs on the role of ITU in implementing WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

i)   that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU WSIS/SDG Task Force, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the role of which is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to WSIS, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

j)   that the Council, at its 2016 session, resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda, within the ITU's mandate and within the resources allocated in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by United Nations agencies;

k)   that the international community is invited to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes;

l)   that ITU is capable of providing expertise in the field of statistical work by developing ICT indicators, using appropriate indicators and benchmarking to track global progress, and measuring the digital divide (§§ 113-118 of the Tunis Agenda),

noting

a)   the outcomes of the WSIS Forum, organized annually by ITU in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNESCO and UNDP;

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

b)   the recognition in UNGA Resolution 70/125 that the WSIS Forum has been a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes by all stakeholders, and should continue to be held annually;

c)   that the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, established at the invitation of the Secretary-General of ITU and the Director-General of UNESCO, re-evaluated and launched a new framework of targets for 2025 in support of "Connecting the Other Half" of the world's population, which aim to make broadband policy universal and to increase affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs;

d)   the annual reports of the Secretary-General on ITU's contribution to implementation of the WSIS outcomes through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on relevant ITU activities;

e)   the relevant Sector resolutions on the role of the ITU Sectors in implementing the WSIS outcomes taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

f)   the relevant results of the 2015-2018 sessions of the Council related to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs;

g)   the outcomes of the WSIS Forums;

h)   programmes, activities and regional activities established by the 2017 world telecommunication development conference (WTDC) with the objective of bridging the digital divide,

   taking into account

that WSIS acknowledged that multistakeholder participation is essential to the successful building of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society,

   recognizing

a)   that the UNGA outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes has substantial implications for the activities of ITU and calls for close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of ICTs to the SDGs and poverty eradication, and noting that access to ICTs has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

b)   that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has substantial implications for the activities of ITU;

c)   that implementation of the WSIS outcomes will facilitate development of the digital economy and help achieve the SDGs;

d)   the importance of ITU's role and participation in UNGIS, as a permanent member, and sharing a rotating chairmanship;

e)   ITU's commitment to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, as one of the most important goals for the Union;

f)   the essential role of telecommunications/ICTs to facilitate digital transformation and the development of the digital economy and help achieve the SDGs and other internationally agreed development goals[2];

g)   that UNGA, in its Resolution 70/125, decided to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025,

   resolves

1   that ITU's role regarding implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should focus on telecommunications/ICTs, in accordance with ITU's mandate;

2   that ITU should play a leading facilitating role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, along with UNESCO and UNDP;

3   that ITU should continue to coordinate WSIS Forums, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) and WSIS Prizes and maintain the WSIS Stocktaking database, as well as continuing to coordinate and support the activities of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development;

4   that ITU should continue to play a lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2, C5 and C6;

5   that ITU should continue its work on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and realization of the WSIS vision beyond 2015 and carrying out those activities that come within its mandate and participate, together with other stakeholders, as appropriate;

6   that ITU should continue to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the SDGs, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by all UN WSIS action line facilitators, working through CWG-WSIS, including by:

i)   updating its roadmaps WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 to take into account activities under way to also implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

ii)   providing input, as appropriate, into the roadmaps/work plans for WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9 and C11, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7   that ITU should continue to adapt itself, taking into account technological developments and its potential to contribute significantly to building an inclusive information society and to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8   that there is a need to integrate the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, and in particular Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of WTDC, and relevant resolutions of plenipotentiary conferences, with the multistakeholder implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

9   that the ITU Sectors should carry out those activities that come within their mandates and participate with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of all relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes and in achieving relevant SDGs and considering in their studies the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG and other Council working groups on issues relevant to WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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[2] Buenos Aires Declaration, 2017.

10   that the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) shall give high priority to building information and communication infrastructure (WSIS Action Line C2), this being the physical backbone for all e-applications, having regard to the Buenos Aires Declaration and Objective 3 of the Buenos Aires Action Plan and calling upon the ITU-D study groups to do the same;

11   that ITU should submit a progress report concerning its implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the contribution of telecommunication/ICT to the digital economy, to the plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Secretary-General

1   to support ITU's role in implementing the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

2   to ensure that ITU activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented through close alignment with the WSIS process and are conducted in accordance with its mandate, within established policies and procedures, and within the resources allocated in the financial plan and biennial budget;

3   to report annually to ECOSOC on progress made in implementation of the WSIS action lines for which ITU is the facilitator or co-facilitator, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and to provide this report to CWG-WSIS&SDG;

4   to contribute annually on relevant ITU activities to the High-Level Political Forum, and provide the report to the Council through CWG-WSIS&SDG;

5   to provide annually to the Council a comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions and engagements that the Union is undertaking on these subjects, for consideration and decision;

6   to invite UNGIS to align activities on developing the information society towards a knowledge society, based on results of the overall review of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

7   to continue to coordinate the WSIS Forum as a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of WSIS by all stakeholders, taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

8   to adjust the WSIS Stocktaking database and WSIS Prizes competitions in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

9   to take into consideration the outputs of CWG-WSIS&SDG in WSIS/SDG Task Force activities;

10   to maintain the special WSIS trust fund to support ITU activities relating to facilitating ITU implementation of the WSIS outcomes through mechanisms including the establishment of partnerships and strategic alliances and to invite the ITU membership to make voluntary contributions,

instructs the Secretary-General and the Directors of the Bureaux

1   to take all necessary measures for ITU to fulfil its role, as outlined in *resolves* 1, 2, 3, and 4 above, in accordance with the appropriate roadmaps and coordinating through the

WSIS/SDG Task Force, with the aim of avoiding duplication of work among the ITU Bureaux and the ITU General Secretariat;

2   to regularly update the roadmaps for ITU's activities within its mandate in regard to WSIS implementation taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be presented to the Council via CWG-WSI&SDG;

3   to strengthen, involving, among others, the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN regional economic commissions and the UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS action lines), other relevant regional organizations, especially in the field of telecommunications/ICT, with the aim of:

i)   aligning WSIS and SDG processes and their implementation as requested by UNGA Resolution 70/125;

ii)   implementing ICT for SDG actions through the UN's "Delivering as One" approach;

iii)   incorporating ICTs in the UN development assistance frameworks;

iv)   developing partnerships for implementation of inter-agency and multistakeholder projects, advancing the implementation of WSIS action lines and advancing achievement of the SDGs;

v)   highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;

vi)   strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes and WSIS Stocktaking;

4   to continue to raise public awareness of the Union's mandate, role and activities and provide broader access to the Union's resources for the general public and other actors involved in the emerging information society;

5   to prepare and submit a progress report on the ITU activities for WSIS/SDG implementation to the next plenipotentiary conference in 2022,

instructs the Directors of the Bureaux

1   to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines (using results-based management processes) for WSIS and SDG activities are developed and reflected in the operational plans of each Sector;

2   to take into account the impact of ITU's work in telecommunications/ICT related to digital transformation on the growth of the digital economy, in line with the WSIS framework, and provide assistance to the membership upon request,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

to follow, as soon as possible and in accordance with Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), a partnership approach in ITU-D activities related to its roles in the implementation and follow-up of the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, with particular attention to the needs of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the ITU Constitution and ITU Convention, and to report annually, as appropriate, to the Council,

requests the Council

1   to oversee, consider and discuss, as appropriate, ITU's work on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs and related ITU activities, and, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, to make resources available as appropriate;

2   to oversee ITU's adaptation to the information society, in line with *resolves* 5 above;

3   to maintain CWG-WSIS and rename it to CWG-WSIS&SDG, in order to facilitate membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and its activities to help achieve the SDGs;

4   to take into account the UNGA decisions relevant to the WSIS process and achieving the SDGs;

5   to prepare and submit to the UNGA High-Level Political Forum 2019 the report on the ITU contribution to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015-2019;

6   to report annually on relevant ITU activities to the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum through the mechanisms established by UNGA Resolution 70/1;

7   to include the report of the Secretary-General in the documents sent to Member States in accordance with No. 81 of the Convention;

8   to examine, with the involvement of the other facilitators/moderators and stakeholders, possible approaches to financing and maintaining a WSIS Forum website, available, wholly or in part, in at least the six official languages of the United Nations (ensuring equal functionality), to invite the secretariat to report to the Council annually on the progress made in this examination and to present a final report to the next plenipotentiary conference;

9   to review and improve, through the CWG-WSIS&SDG:

i)   the ITU activities related to implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs;

ii)   the WSIS Prizes rules and guidelines to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders, using the six official languages of the Union, to make them more effective and simpler and serve the interest of all stakeholders;

iii)   the promotion of the winners of WSIS Prizes throughout the UN activities related to WSIS and SDGs,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1   to participate actively in implementing the WSIS outcomes and achieving the SDGs, contribute to the WSIS Forum and WSIS Stocktaking database maintained by ITU and the WSIS Prizes, and participate actively in the activities of CWG-WSIS&SDG and in ITU's further adaptation in order to build an inclusive information society and achieve the SDGs;

2   to participate actively in ITU WSIS implementation activities to support achieving the SDGs, including those related to digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy;

3   to support, through relevant United Nations processes, the synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the WSIS-SDG Matrix, so as to continue strengthening the impact of ICT for sustainable development and its contribution towards development of the digital economy;

4   to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund set up by ITU to support activities relating to the implementation of WSIS outcomes;

5   to continue to contribute information on their activities to the public WSIS Stocktaking database maintained by ITU;

6   to contribute to and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multistakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries,

   expresses

its warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to the Governments of Switzerland and Tunisia for having hosted the two phases of the Summit in close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and other relevant United Nations agencies.