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| Director, Radiocommunication Bureau |
| **OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS (UNCSD) – RIO+20** |

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) – Rio+20 – was organized in pursuance of General Assembly [Resolution 64/236](http://www.uncsd2012.org/files/OD/ARES64236E.pdf) and took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The Conference focused on two main themes: a green economy in the context of sustainable development poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Seen as the guiding principle for long-term global development, sustainable development consists of three pillars: economic development, social development and environmental protection.The preparations for Rio+20 have highlighted seven areas which need priority attention; these include decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness.

Rio+20 was a joint endeavour of the entire UN System. A dedicated Secretariat was responsible for coordinating and facilitating inputs to the preparatory process from all UN bodies. Information on the ITU preparations is contained at: [www.itu.int/rioplus20](http://www.itu.int/rioplus20).

The outcome document of the conference, “[*The Future We Want*](http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&nr=767&type=111)”, has 49 pages and 283 paragraphs.

The key references to ICTs in the approved final document are highlighted in the annex, as well as the instructions given to the UN system.

**Annex: 1**

**ANNEX**

**References to ICT in the Output Document of Rio+20 Conference**

**Main references to ICTs**

The following table summarizes the main references to ICTs included in the output document of Rio+20.

| Para | Section | Text | Focus |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 44 | II. Renewing Political CommitmentC. Engaging major groups and other stakeholders [Agreed ad ref] | We acknowledge the role of civil society and the importance of enabling all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon strengthening access to information, building civil society capacity as well as an enabling environment, and respecting the right to freedom of association and assembly, in accordance with our obligations under international law. **We recognize that information and communication technology (ICT) is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public. In this regard, it is essential to work toward improved access to ICT, especially broad-band network and services, and bridge the digital divide, recognizing the contribution of international cooperation in this regard.** | Role of ICTs to promote stakeholder engagement |
| 65 | III. Green Economy (…) | **We recognize the power of communications technologies, including connection technologies and innovative applications to promote knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and capacity building for sustainable development.** These technologies and applications can build capacity and enable the sharing of experiences and knowledge in the different areas of sustainable development in an open and transparent manner. | Role of ICTs to promote knowledge exchange and capacity building |
| 114 | V. Framework for action (…)Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture | We resolve to take action to enhance agricultural research, extension services, training and education to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability through the voluntary sharing of knowledge and good practices. **We further resolve to improve access to information, technical knowledge and know-how, including through new information and communication technologies that empower farmers, fishers and foresters to choose among diverse methods of achieving sustainable agricultural production.** We call for the strengthening of international cooperation on agricultural research for development.  | Action to promote access to ICTs to empower farmers, fishers and foresters |
| 182 | V. Framework for action (…)LLDCs[Agreed ad ref] | 182. We invite Member States, including development partners, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to speed up further the implementation of the specific actions in the five priorities agreed upon in the Almaty Programme of Action and those contained in the Declaration on the midterm review, in a better-coordinated manner, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved **communications and energy infrastructure**, so as to support these countries' sustainable development. | Action to improve communication infrastructure |
| 230 | V. Framework for action (…)Education[Agreed ad ref] | 230. We recognize that the younger generations are the custodians of the future, as well as the need for better quality and access to education beyond the primary level. We therefore resolve to improve the capacity of our education systems to prepare people to pursue sustainable development, including through enhanced teacher training, the development of curricula around sustainability, the development of training programmes that prepare students for careers in fields related to sustainability, and more **effective use of information and communication technologies to enhance learning outcome**s. We call for enhanced cooperation among schools, communities and authorities in efforts to promote access to quality education at all levels. | Action to promote more effective use of ICTs in education |
| 240 | V. Frwrk for actions (Gender) | We are committed to women’s equal rights and opportunities in political and economic decision-making and resource allocation and to remove any barriers that prevent women from being full participants in the economy. We resolve to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights with men to economic resources, including access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and **appropriate new technology.** | Access of women to new technology |
| 272 | VI means of implementation(technology) | This can help countries, especially developing countries, to develop their own innovative solutions, scientific research and new, environmentally sound technologies, with the support of the international community. **To this end, we support building science and technology capacity, with both women and men as contributors and beneficiaries**, including through collaboration among research institutions, universities, the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations, and scientists | Science and Technology and women  |

**“Secondary” references to ICTs**

In addition to the above references, the output text includes several other references to the role of space technologies, data and technology development that could relate to ITU’s mandate. The following table summarizes these “secondary references” included in the agreed output document*.*

| Para | Section | Text | Focus |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 117 | V (food security) | We underline the importance of timely, accurate and transparent information in helping to address excessive food price volatility, and in this regard takes note of the **Agricultural Market Information System** hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and urges the participating international organizations, private sector actors and Governments to ensure the public dissemination of timely and quality food market information products. | Information systems |
| 166 | V (Oceans and sea) | We call for support to initiatives that address ocean acidification and the impacts of climate change on marine and coastal ecosystems and resources. In this regard, we reiterate the need to work collectively to prevent further ocean acidification, as well as enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on them, and to support marine scientific research**, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification** and particularly vulnerable ecosystems, including through enhanced international cooperation in this regard. | Monitoring climate change |
| 187 | V (disaster risk reduction) | We recognize the importance of **early warning systems** as part of effective disaster risk reduction at all levels in order to reduce economic and social damages including the loss of human life, and in this regard encourage States to integrate such systems into their national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans. We encourage donors and the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of disaster risk reduction in developing countries as appropriate through technical assistance, technology transfer as mutually agreed, capacity building and training programmes. We further recognize the importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and **knowledge and information sharing, including reliable geospatial information.** We commit to undertake and strengthen in a timely manner risk assessment and disaster risk reduction instruments. | Early warning systems |
| 209 | V (Desertification, land degrade) | We reiterate the need for cooperation through the **sharing of climate and weather information,** and forecasting and **early warning systems** related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as to dust storms and sandstorms, at the global, regional and sub-regional levels. In this regard, we invite States and relevant organizations to cooperate in the sharing of related information, **forecasting and early warning systems.** | Early warning systems |
| 218 | V. Chemicals and waste | 218. We recognize the importance of adopting a life-cycle approach and of further development and implementation of policies for resource efficiency and environmentally sound waste management. We therefore commit to further reduce, reuse and recycle waste (3Rs) as well as to increase energy recovery from waste with a view to managing the majority of global waste in an environmentally sound manner and where possible as a resource. Solid wastes, such as **electronic waste and plastics, pose particular challenges which should be addressed.** We call for the development and enforcement of comprehensive national and local waste management policies, strategies, laws and regulations. | e-waste |
| 273 | VI. Means of Implementations. (Technology) | **We request relevant UN agencies to identify** options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of **clean and environmentally sound technologies** by, *inter alia*, assessing technology needs of developing countries, options **to address them and capacity building**. We request the UN Secretary General, on the basis of the options identified and taking into account existing models, to make recommendations regarding the facilitation mechanism to the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly. | Technology for capacity building |
| 274 | VI. MOI (technology) | We recognize the importance of **space-technology-based data**, in situ monitoring, and reliable **geospatial information** for sustainable development policy-making, programming and project operations. In this context, we note the relevance of global mapping and recognize the efforts in developing global environmental observing systems, including by the Eye on Earth network and through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems. We recognize the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data. | Remote sensing and in situ monitoring systems |

**Instructions given to the UN system**

In addition to including references to ICTs, the outcome document of Rio+20 includes a number of instructions given to the UN system (including specialized agencies) to advance in the implementation of the agreements of the Conference. Synthetizing, the document instructs the UN system to mainstream sustainable development within its programs and initiatives.

The following table includes the main paragraphs that ITU should follow up after the conference (non‑exhaustive).

| Para | Section | Text | Focus |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 54.  | II. Renewing Political CommitmentC. Engaging major groups and other stakeholders [Agreed ad ref] | **We recognize the central role of the United Nations in advancing the sustainable development agenda**. We acknowledge as well, in this regard, the contributions of other relevant international organizations, including (…) and stress the importance of cooperation among them and with the United Nations, within their respective mandates, recognizing their role in mobilizing resources for SD. | Recognition of role in mobilizing resources for SD |
| 68 | III. Green Economy (…) | **We invite relevant stakeholders**, including the UN Regional Commissions, UN organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, **to support developing countries upon request to achieve sustainable development**, including through, inter alia, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular in least developed countries. | Invitation to support developing countries upon request to achieve SD |
| 78 | IV. IFSDA. Strengthening the three dimensions of SD | **We underscore the need to strengthen UN system-wide coherence and coordination**, while ensuring appropriate accountability to Member States, by, inter alia, enhancing coherence in reporting and reinforcing cooperative efforts under existing inter-agency mechanisms and strategies **to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system**, (…) | Need to advance the integration of three pillars of SD within the UN |
| 85 | IV. IFSDHigh level political forum  | *(several paragraphs related to the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development)* | Invitation to take part in the forum |
| 91 | IV. IFSDD. International financial institutions and UN operational activities | **We recognize that sustainable development should be given due consideration by the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the UN system and other relevant entities** such as (…), in accordance with their respective existing mandates. In this regard, **we invite them to further enhance mainstreaming of sustainable development in their respective mandates, programs, strategies and decision-making processes**, in support of all countries in particular developing countries’ efforts in the achievement of sustainable development. | Recognition that SD should be given due consideration and invitation to mainstream SD within mandates |
| 94 | IV. IFSDD. International financial institutions and UN operational activities | **We invite the governing bodies** of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the UN development system **to consider appropriate measures for integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions across the UN System’s operational activities**. We also emphasize that increasing the financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and in this regard we recognize the mutually reinforcing links among increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development. | Invitation to governing bodies to consider appropriate measures |
| 248-249 | VI. Means of Implementations. (Sustainable Development Goals) | We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global SDGs to be agreed by the UNGA. An open working group shall be constituted no later than the opening of the 67th session of the UNGA and shall comprise of thirty representatives, nominated by Member States (…). At the outset, this open working group will decide on its method of work, including developing modalities, to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the UN system in its work in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report to the 68th session of the UNGA containing a proposal for SDGs for consideration and appropriate action. | Resolution to initiate process to define SDGs, and invitation to the UN system to take part |
| 280 | VI. Means of Implementations. (Capacity building) | **We invite all relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations to support developing countries and, in particular, least developed countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies**, including through (…) | Invitation to support capacity building in developing countries |

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