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| **Council 2017Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL XXXX** | **Document C17/X-E** |
| **10 February 2017** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society (CWG-WSIS) |
| **REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CWG-WSIS ACTIVITIES SINCE COUNCIL-16**  |

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| **Summary**This report summarizes the main results of the 29th and 30th Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on the 12-13 October 2016 and 7-8 February 2017 in line with Resolution 140 (Busan 2014).**Action required**To forward conclusions to the Council-17 for its consideration. **References***UNGA Resolution* [*70/125*](http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95735.pdf)*, UNGA Resolution A/70/1,* *UNGA Resolution A/71/212,* *UNGA Resolution A/70/299 , UNGA Resolution A/70/684, UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2016/22,* *Resolution 140 (Busan 2014), Resolution 172 (Guadalajara, 2010), Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), 2011 Council Resolution 1336, Resolution 75 (2016), Reports of 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th , 27th, 28th and 29th and 30th CWG WSIS meeting, WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes, WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, Final WSIS Target Review, WSIS+10 Report: ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014).* |

1. **Introduction**

Since Counci-16 the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) has held two meetings. The 29th meeting was held on 12-13 October 2016 and the 30th meeting on the 7-8 of February 2017. The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with Resolution 140 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan 2014), and consequently Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016). The Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS are listed in the Annex to the Council Resolution 1332. The meetings were chaired by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of the WG-WSIS.

The meetings considered 33 documents, including two contributions by the Russian Federation and one by Mexico.

1. **ITU’s activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation and follow-up, including activities according to the ITU Operational Plans**
	1. The following documents were considered at the 29th and 30th meetings of the WG-WSIS:
		1. 2016 Report on ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes ([WG-WSIS-29/02](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0002)):
		2. Updates on the ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [WG-WSIS-30/02](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0002/en):
		3. Updated ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Line C2, C5, C6 (([WG-WSIS-29/03](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS29-C-0003/en); [WG-WSIS-30/03](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0002/en))
		4. WSIS Forum 2016: High Level Track Outcomes and Executive Brief ([WG-WSIS-29/07);](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0007)
		5. WSIS Forum 2016 Outcome Document –Forum Track ([WG-WSIS-29/04](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0004))
		6. WSIS Forum 2016 and SDGs Matrix ([WG-WSIS-29/05](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0005))
		7. WSIS Action Lines Supporting Implementation of the SDGs: Report by WSIS Action Line Facilitators  ([WG-WSIS-29/07](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0007))
		8. WSIS Forum 2017 ([WG-WSIS-29/06](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0006); [WG-WSIS-30/04](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0004/en))
		9. WSIS-SDG Matrix: Updates [WG-WSIS-29/05](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0005)
		10. WSIS Stocktaking Process 2016 & 2017: [WG-WSIS-30/06](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0006/en); Regional WSIS Stocktaking Reports 2016 - ICT Projects and WSIS Action Lines Related Activities ([WG-WSIS-29-11](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-00011))
		11. WSIS Stocktaking 2016 Report ([WG-WSIS-29-09)](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0009)
		12. Report on the WSIS Stocktaking ([WG-WSIS-29-08](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0008))
		13. WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2016 Report ([WG-WSIS-29-10](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-00010))
		14. WSIS Project Prizes 2016 & 2017 ([WG-WSIS-29/12](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0012); [WG-WSIS-30/07](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0007/en)).
		15. UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS): Oral briefings was provided by the Secretariat at each meeting on the agenda item.
		16. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2016 & 2017: ([WG-WSIS-30/08](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0008/en))
		17. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development ([WG-WSIS-29/16](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0016); [WG-WSIS-30/09](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0009/en))
		18. WSIS Fund in Trust ([WG-WSIS-29/15](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0015); [WG-WSIS-30/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0010/en))
		19. Contributions from the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-29/17](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0017); WG-WSIS-30/13) on ITU contribution towards ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and Proposals for the WG WSIS Report to Council 17
		20. Contribution from Mexico ([WG-WSIS-30/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0014/en)): Mexico provided an update on the outcomes of the IGF, 6-9 December 2016, Mexico
	2. The Group took note of all the documents with appreciation and suggested the following:

		1. WSIS Forum 2017
			1. While appreciating the addition of the hackathon component to the WSIS Forums, Member States and ITU membership were encouraged to identify universities and the communities of young coders to participate in the hackathon.
			2. Secretariat was asked to improve the description of the WSIS Forum Outcome Document in order to avoid perception that the WSIS Forum is a negotiation and decision making body.
			3. Secretariat was invited to explore the possible ways to strengthen multilingualism at the WSIS Forum while the ITU membership and other stakeholders were encouraged to contribute financially or through barter to defray the costs of interpretation and translation.
			4. The Group took note on the theme for the WSIS Forum 2017 Information and Knowledge Societies for SDGs.
			5. Secretariat was requested to strengthen communication ono the way the stakeholders may submit their requests for the workshops through the WSIS Forum Formal Submission Form. Explanatory note might be needed for the new stakeholders as currently it may not be obvious.
			6. Secretariat was requested to take into account the results of the annual ITU Regional Development Forums on ICT for Sustainable Development and WSIS implementation related events, in preparation towards the WSIS Forum.
			7. While appreciating all efforts directed by the WSIS secretariat towards ensuring appropriate level of accessibility at the WSIS Forum 2016, it was underlined that accessibility matters should remain a priority of the preparations towards WSIS Forum 2017. Membership was invited to contribute financially and in terms of content towards this effort. It is also encouraged to include persons with disabilities and specific needs whenever possible in both the preparation and participation in the WSIS Forum.
			8. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute to the financial effort of organization of the WSIS Forum, considering the partnership packages proposed by the Secretariat.
		2. WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix
			1. The group took note on the follow up actions by the UN Agencies on the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix, encouraging Secretariat to continue working in close collaboration with relevant UN Agencies.
			2. Secretariat was requested to explore the ways to visualise the link to ITU Connect 2020 Agenda.
			3. The group recommended the Secretariat to strengthen  the efforts of linking WSIS-SDG matrix developed by the UN Agencies with the ongoing exercise of the WSIS Stocktaking and Prizes, seeking validation of relationships proposed by the UN agencies, simultaneously transforming WSIS-SDG matrix into the evidence based, regularly updated (i.e. after UN HLPF 19, 23 and 27) guiding tool.
		3. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes Report
			1. It was felt that such a document is very useful for capturing the major efforts of the ITU in context of WSIS. The Secretariat was request to better reflect the impact and the result orientation of the activities reflected in future reports.
			2. It was noted that the Report brings forth several activities that are carried out in collaboration with other UN Agencies, strengthening the one UN approach.
			3. In the WSIS Forum’s section of the report, the Secretariat was requested to present a breakdown of the WSIS Forum participants by Stakeholder type and regions.
			4. In addition the Group proposed to Council-17:
				1. to note with appreciation final version of the 2016 Report on ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes, updated ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, C6 and the ITU Mapping Tool for SDG-Connect 2020-WSIS Action Lines, as internal tool for reporting on the ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS-SDG-Connect 2020.
				2. to recommend the Secretariat

to reflect in the annual Report of ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes activities and projects in response to Expected Results of ITU Activities, according to the ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Line C2, C5, C6;

to reflect in the annual Report concrete figures for assessment of Connect 2020 goals and targets;

* + - * 1. To request ITU to strengthen, through the regional offices and support of the general secretariat, together with relevant regional organizations, coordination at the regional level with the UN Economic Regional Commissions and UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN Agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS Action Lines), under process of implementation of WSIS outcomes and SDGs with the aim of:

advancing the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes as requested by the UNGA Resolution 70/125;

strengthening implementation of ICT for SDG actions through *Delivering as One UN approach*;

seeking the way of taking into account ICTs during the programming of UNDAFs (UN Development Assistance Framework);

seeking the partnerships for implementation of interagency and multistakeholder projects, advancing implementation of WSIS Action Lines and advancing achievement of SDGs

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

strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Stocktaking.

* + 1. WSIS Stocktaking
			1. The regional reports were appreciated as useful documents to get an overview of the actions carried out in the region and reported to the stocktaking database. It was underlined that regional coordination mechanisms should be better engaged in the future. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute on their projects to the stocktaking mechanism at the regional level.
			2. The upgrade of the WSIS Stocktaking database functionalities was noted, in particular the impact of the reported actions on the relevant SDGs, thereby facilitating alignment of WSIS and SDGs processes.
			3. Offering of the embeddable interfaces was appreciated.
		2. WSIS Prizes
			1. Membership was encouraged to submit their projects to the contest providing an opportunity for identification of best practices and sharing of knowledge at the global level. The submissions to the respective action lines will clearly show the contribution of the project towards achieving the SDGs. Secretariat was requested to continue collaboration with UN Agencies on this activity.
		3. WSIS Roadmaps for AL C2, C5, C6
			1. The Group took note of the document concluding that it should be considered by Advisory Groups during their discussions on the contribution of sectors to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
		4. WSIS Fund in Trust:
			1. The Group took note on the contributions made by Stakeholders in 2016 with appreciation including UAE, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Poland, Rwanda, ICANN, IEEE, IFIP, ISOC, Swiss Engineering, VimpleCom. These contributions helped defray the operational costs of the WSIS Forum 2016.
			2. All Stakeholders were encouraged to consider contributing to the WSIS Fund in Trust for WSIS Forum 2017.
1. **ITU’s activities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
	1. The following documents were considered at the 29th and 30th meetings of the WG-WSIS:
		1. ITU contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([WG-WSIS-28/12](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0012/en)).
		2. Draft ITU Council Contribution to the High Level Political Forum 2017 ([WG-WSIS-30/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0011/en));
		3. Updated Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  ([WG-WSIS-30/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0012/en));
		4. SDG Mapping Tool: Mapping ITU strategic framework, Connect 2020 Agenda, Actions Lines and SDGs (<https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/SDG/#/home/home-page>);
		5. #ICT4SDG Campaign: Using ICTs to Fast Forward the Sustainable Development Goals ([WG-WSIS-30/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0016/en));
		6. Contributions from the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-29/17](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0017); WG-WSIS-30/13) on ITU contribution towards ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and Proposals for the WG WSIS Report to Council 17.
	2. The Group discussed the contributions, expressed its appreciation and supported the proposals as follows:
		1. Information on the side events held at the HLPF should be submitted to the Group for its consideration.
		2. Mapping tool should be accessible to all stakeholders.
		3. Suggestions were made to include in the communications campaign items related to how standardization activities and radio-frequency spectrum management contribute to achieving the SDGs. Secretariat should explore the possibility of providing the tool in six UN languages.
		4. Secretariat should present relevant SDG roadmap at the 30th Meeting of the WG-WSIS.
		5. Request General Secretariat and three Bureaus to take into account themes and relevant sets of SDGs for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in 2017, 2018 and 2019 under developing Operational plans, roadmaps and Strategic Plan.
		6. Request Secretariat to submit preliminary draft ITU report to HLPF-17 for consideration at the 30th meeting of WG-WSIS.
		7. Invite Member States, Sector Members and all other stakeholders to actively contribute to ITU activities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
		8. To recommend under preparation of draft ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development take into account the set of goals to be reviewed in depth at HLPF 2017.
		9. To recommend Secretariat to include activities for preparation to HLPF UNGA/ECOSOC in Updated Roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
		10. The Group thanked the Secretariat for elaboration of very exhaustive Draft ITU Council Contribution to the High Level Political Forum and made the following comments:
			1. Document should start with a general introduction explaining ITU’s and ICT’s contribution to SDGs, recognizing the need to harness the role of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development, followed by a short focused section on the SDGs under consideration by HLPF-17;
			2. Document should be less detailed and more high level;
			3. It should reflect what ITU is doing in context of SDGs, especially in 2016;
			4. The document should provide more statistics and evidence;
			5. Use to the extent possible the SDG Mapping Tool;
			6. Section Five could focus on major areas and frameworks where guidance from the HLPF would be helpful, such as:
				1. How to build effective public/private partnerships?
				2. How to recognise and harness the role of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development?
				3. How to build an enabling environment for investment?
			7. The contribution is an opportunity to promote the important role that ICTs play as an enabler of sustainable development. The contribution should be more focused on the SDGs that the HLPF will review in depth, in particular Goals 5 and 9. It should concentrate on the most important high level points and not go into too many details;
			8. Structure needs to follow the template provided by UN.
			9. The following timeline was agreed for the preparation of the final version of the ITU Council Contribution to HLPF-17.
				1. Revised draft will be prepared by the Secretariat by 24 February, addressing all comments provided during the WG-WSIS, and posted on the CWG-WSIS website.
				2. Membership to provide comments to Secretariat by 10 March.
				3. Secretariat to post final draft on CWG-WSIS website by 24 March.
				4. Membership to provide Secretariat final comments by 7 April.
				5. Secretariat submits final text to UN before the deadline of 28th April.
2. Conclusions
	1. The Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU Membership who participated in the work of the 29th and 30th meeting of CWG-WSIS. The Group thanked all who contributed to the work of CWG-WSIS and WSIS Process. Appreciations were expressed towards Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General and Chairman of the ITU WSIS Task Force, Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT, Mr Chaesub Lee, Director of TSB, and Ms Doreen Bogdan, Chief of SPM. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by Secretariat, in particular Mr Jaroslaw Ponder and Ms Gitanjali Sah.
	2. The Group expressed its thanks to Mr Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of the WG-WSIS, for efficient chairmanship and guidance.

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