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| ITU-D CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WSIS OUTCOMES AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT |
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| **Summary:**This document provides an update on the contribution of ITU-D to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017. **Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:**WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014), Council Resolution 1332 (Rev. 2016) |

**Background**

1. 2017 has marked an important milestone for the global discussion on the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and contribution of ICT to the achievement of SDGs. The [7th ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Pages/default.aspx) (WTDC-17), 9-20 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina, was held under the overall theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals” (ICT④SDGs). WTDC-17 adopted the [Buenos Aires Declaration](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0117/en), the ITU-D Contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan and the [Buenos Aires Action Plan (BaAP)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en). In doing so, WTDC-17 agreed on ITU-D objectives, outcomes and outputs, and on their contribution to the achievement of SDGs and WSIS Action Lines. The linkages between WSIS Action Lines, SDG goals and targets, and the ITU-D Objectives and Outcomes are presented in Annex One.

In this sense all actions carried out by ITU-D are contributing to the achievement of SDGs and the WSIS implementation. They are reported to the ITU Membership through RDFs, TDAG, CWG-WSIS. In addition, flagship activities undertaken by BDT constitute a substantive part of the annual reporting through the *ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS outcomes*. The 2017 edition of this report is available at <https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx>.

**Policy level beyond WTDC-17**

1. By establishing clear links between ITU-D Objectives/Outcomes, SDGs and WSIS Action Lines, WTDC-17 strengthened the role of ITU-D in relation to the implementation of WSIS outcomes and to the contribution to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By updating Resolution 30 (Rev. 2017, Buenos Aires), WTDC-17 reiterated importance of the alignment of these two UN processes and underlined the role of the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the WSIS-SDG matrix developed by UN agencies.
2. Following Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014), ITU plays a lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, co-facilitator of WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C11 and partner of WSIS Action Lines C8 and C9. Since 2005, BDT has been playing the role of the main ITU focal point for most of the WSIS Action Lines (including WSIS Action Lines C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C7, C9, C11) and has been leading the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development. Following WTDC-17 outcomes, BDT will continue to do so beyond 2017. Accordingly, with the aim of strengthening the facilitation/implementation process of WSIS Action Lines C2 and C6 – led by BDT – the WSIS Action Line Roadmaps[[1]](#footnote-1) have been updated in line with the operational plans.
3. In order to reinforce the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes, the implementation of ICT for SDGs through the UN’s ‘Delivering as One’ approach, the incorporation of ICTs in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and national sustainable development plans, WTDC-17 called BDT to strengthen, through the ITU regional and area offices, coordination and collaboration at the regional level with the UN regional economic commissions and 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 telecommunication/ICT. Simultaneously WTDC-17 recognized the Regional Initiatives as an important mechanism for strengthening regional implementation, thus contributing to the achievement of SDGs and WSIS Action Lines objectives.
4. In addition to the regular BDT activities in the context of WSIS, WTDC-17 called BDT to provide assistance to membership in the field of digital transformation that fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy. It also tasked BDT to act as a catalyst in the development of partnerships among all parties, with a view to ensuring that initiatives and projects attract investment; to foster the conditions required for a successful knowledge-based enterprise incubator process and other projects for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in and among developing countries; to encourage the international financial institutions, Member States and Sector Members, in their respective roles, to address, as a priority issue, the building, reconstruction and upgrading of networks and infrastructure in developing countries; and to pursue coordination with international bodies, with a view to mobilizing the financial resources needed in the implementation of projects.

**Operational level beyond WTDC-17**

1. At the operational level, BDT has been contributing to the achievement of the WSIS outcomes. On behalf of ITU, BDT has been acting as Focal Point and Facilitator of Action Line C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure) and Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment). BDT has also been implementing several activities in the context of WSIS Action Line C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs) where ITU is the sole facilitator. In coordination with UNDP and UNESCO, BDT has also been acting as interim focal point for WSIS Action Line C4 (Capacity Building). The Bureau has been acting as the official ITU focal point for most of the WSIS Action Lines, including C1, C3, C4, C7 and C11, where ITU is the co-facilitator, and of WSIS Action Line C9, where ITU is a partner. BDT also continues to lead the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, an international, multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators.
2. BDT has been contributing to the preparatory process and the organization of the WSIS Forum ([www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)), which has become the main global event for coordination and facilitation of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and a multistakeholder platform for advancing discussion on ICTs and information society for SDGs. The 2018 edition of the WSIS Forum is scheduled to be held from 19 to 23 March in ITU Headquarters, expecting 1500-plus stakeholders including over 250 high level leaders of ICT ecosystem and other sectors such as health, education, environment, etc. In addition to this, in the 2018 edition, BDT will lead several thematic streams of the Forum, while fostering partnership building and project generation. The following lists series of sessions of the WSIS Forum will be led by BDT:
* WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings
* WSIS AL C2: ICT Infrastructure WSIS AL C4: Capacity Building
* WSIS AL C5: Cybersecurity (contributing role, SPM leads)
* WSIS AL C6: Enabling Environment
* WSIS AL C7: E-Waste
* WSIS AL C7: E-Environment (ITU/WMO)
* WSIS AL C7: E-Agriculture (ITU/FAO)
* WSIS AL C7: E-Health (ITU/WHO)
* High Level Dialogues
* Digital Skills
* e-Waste Coalition
* Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development Annual Meeting
* Innovation Track @ WSIS Forum
* Accelerating Digital Transformation: Building Vibrant ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystems (One Day Forum)
* ITU-FAO Global Hackathon: Hack Against Hunger (ITU/FAO) (Two-day Programme)
1. Moreover, BDT will also contribute to a series of High Level Interactive Dialogues, WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings for WSIS AL C1 (Role of Governments), C11 (International Cooperation), C7 (e-science, e-learning, e-government), WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meeting as well as several thematic workshops and sessions organized by diverse stakeholders.
2. BDT continues to play a significant role in the review committee of the WSIS Prizes process and follow up activities related to the partnership building and exchange of best practices. 18 WSIS Prizes are awarded annually with special recognition of the prize winners for their contribution to the WSIS Action Lines as facilitators. In 2018, WSIS Prizes reached a record number of submissions. Over 700 ICT for SDG projects have been reviewed and nominated for the voting phase. With the overall aim of aligning the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighting the crosscutting contribution of ICTs to SDGs and poverty eradication, the WSIS Forum will build upon the WSIS-SDG Matrix. BDT contributes substantially to the WSIS Stocktaking Reports as well as the report on WSIS Success Stories which have been released on an annual basis since 2005.
3. In the follow-up to the outcomes of the UNGA Overall Review and in line with the WTDC outcome, a series of regional WSIS implementation workshops are being organized by the UN Regional Economic Commissions, in close collaboration with ITU, and under the leadership of the ITU Regional Offices. The main aim of these meetings is to strengthen the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes, fostering partnership building and mainstreaming of ICTs in the national development agendas. Upon this, Regional Offices also engage in the preparations of the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development led by the UN Regional Economic Commissions. Moreover a series of ITU Regional Development Forums scheduled to be held in all six regions on the annual basis will foster implementation of regional initiatives and will be an important mechanism for addressing regional priorities in field of ICT for SDGs and WSIS Action Lines. A series of Regional WSIS Stocktaking Reports for Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and Pacific, CIS and Europe is going to be prepared to cover 2016-2018 regional activities, reported by WSIS stakeholders.
4. As founder and key leading partner of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, BDT coordinates the preparation of an annual meeting of the Partnership at the WSIS Forum. In the context of the discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This work significantly contributed to the discussions related to the UNGA Overall Review, in particular in the context of aligning WSIS with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a result, several ICT indicators were included in the SDG monitoring framework and ITU was identified as the custodian agency for collecting 5 SDG indicators.
5. BDT continues to facilitate the international debate on measuring ICT for development. The World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) is the main global forumfor telecommunication and information society measurements. WTIS-17 was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 14 to 16 November 2017. The annual *Measuring the Information Society Report (MISR)*, featuring key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, including the ICT Development Index (IDI), continues to be a unique reference point for the quantitative assessment of progress in the WSIS implementation. The 2017 edition provides key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, including the ICT Development Index (IDI).

**Conclusions**

1. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the BDT activities contributing to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with WTDC-17.
2. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the preparatory processes related to the WSIS Forums, WSIS Stocktaking, and WSIS Prizes.
3. At the national level, the ITU membership is encouraged to mainstream ICTs in the sustainable development plans and UN development assistance frameworks as well as consider supporting ITU’s efforts in delivering on ICT for SDGs through UN’s “Delivering as One” approach, taking into account ITU’s core competencies and mandate.
4. Member States are invited to reinforce their capacities in collection of statistics and indicators required for SDG measurement and ICT for Development Index.
5. At the regional level all stakeholders are invited to engage in the preparations of the Regional Development Forums, UN Forums on Sustainable Development, specific regional WSIS/SDG events and other events, highlighting importance of ICT for SDGs and alignment between WSIS and SDG processes and taking into account the results of the WTDC-17.
6. The ITU membership is invited to actively engage in the BDT activities with the aim of developing partnerships and contributing to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and achievement of SDGs, including the implementation of Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17; this includes facilitation of engagement of stakeholders from other sectors than ICTs/Telecommunications.
7. The ITU membership is encouraged to build upon the assistance provided to countries in the field of digital transformation, which fosters sustainable growth of the digital economy, as well as advances in the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and achievement of SDGs.
8. The ITU membership is invited to submit contributions to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group and to the relevant ITU-D study groups , where appropriate, and contribute to CWG-WSIS on implementing WSIS outcomes within ITU's mandate, taking into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**ANNEX 1**

**ITU-D contribution to the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023:
Objectives, Outcomes, SDGs and WSIS Action Lines**

| Objectives | D.1 Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues | D.2 Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT Infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs  | D.3 Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development  | D.4 Inclusive digital society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development  |
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| Outcomes | **D.1-1**: Enhanced review and increased level of agreement on the draft ITU-D contribution to the draft ITU strategic plan, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) Declaration, and the WTDC Action Plan.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11**D.1-2**: Assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan and of the WSIS Plan of Action.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11**D.1-3**: Enhanced knowledge-sharing, dialogue and partnership among ITU Membership on telecommunication/ICT issues.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 10, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 **D.1-4:** Enhanced process and implementation of telecommunications/ICT development projects and regional initiatives.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 **D.1.5**: Facilitation of agreement to cooperate on telecommunication/ICT development programmes between Member States, and between Member States and other stakeholders in the ICT ecosystem, based on request from involved ITU Member StatesContributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 and C11 | **D.2-1**: Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to make available resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C9, and C11**D.2-2**: Strengthened Member States’ capacity to effectively share information, find solutions, and respond to threats to cybersecurity and to develop and implement national strategies and capabilities, including capacity building, encourage national, regional and international cooperation toward enhanced engagement among Member States and relevant players.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 4, 9, 11, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C5**D.2-3**: Strengthened capacity of Member States to use telecommunication/ICT for disaster risk reduction and management, to ensure availability of emergency telecommunications, and support cooperation in this area.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 5, 11 and 13 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C2 and C7 | **D.3-1**: Strengthened capacity of Member States to enhance their policy, legal and regulatory frameworks conducive to development of telecommunications/ICTs. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C6**D.3-2:** Strengthened capacity of Member States to produce high-quality, internationally comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics which reflect developments and trends in telecommunications/ICTs based on agreed standards and methodologies.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1 - 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1 - C11 **D.3-3**: Improved human and institutional capacity of ITU Membership to tap into the full potential of telecommunications/ICTs. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C4**D.3-4:** Strengthened ITU Membership capacity to integrate telecommunication/ICT innovation in national development agendas and to develop strategies to promote innovation initiatives, including through public, private, and public-private partnerships. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 16 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, and C11 | **D-4-1**: Improved access to and use of telecommunication/ICT in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 and 17 Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C2 and C6 and C7**D.4-2**: Improved ITU Membership capacity to accelerate economic and social development by leveraging and using new technologies and telecommunication/ICT services and applications.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 11Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C7**D.4-3:** Strengthened capacity of ITU Membership to develop strategies, policies and practices for digital inclusion, in particular for the empowerment of women and girls, persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs.Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 4, 5, 8, 10 and 17Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8 and C9**D.4-4:** Enhanced capacity of ITU Membership to develop telecommunication/ICT strategies and solutions on climate-change adaptation and mitigation and the use of green/renewable energy. Contributes to achievement of SDG Goals 3, 5, 11, 12 and 13Contributes to facilitation of implementation of WSIS AL C7 |

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1. Updated version of the Roadmaps for the WSIS Action Line C2, C5, C6 is available at [www.itu.int/itu-wsis](http://www.itu.int/itu-wsis) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)