

RESOLUTION 89 (Kigali, 2022)

Digital transformation for sustainable development

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (Kigali, 2022),

recalling

- a) Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);
- c) the WSIS outcome documents, notably the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;
- d) the outcomes of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and its associated roadmap, as well as the United Nations Global Pulse initiative;
- e) Resolution 71 of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union, as revised periodically;
- f) Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- g) Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunication/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;
- h) Resolution 137 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on deployment of future networks in developing countries¹;

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

i) Resolution 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on implementation of and cooperation on regionally approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels;

j) Resolution 11 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of this conference, on telecommunication/ICT services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas;

k) Resolution 77 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, on broadband technology and applications for greater growth and development of telecommunication/information and communication services and broadband connectivity;

l) Recommendations and other work of ITU related to digital transformation,

considering

a) the role of ITU as a United Nations specialized agency to support Member States and to contribute to worldwide efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

b) that ITU is committed to inclusiveness, bridging the digital divide and providing broadband access for all;

c) that digital transformation is important for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

d) that digital transformation has enormous potential for, and is an important factor in, positive change;

e) that incorporating digital transformation into national strategies and policies, with inputs from stakeholders, is an effective way to plan for digital transformation,

noting

a) that developing countries' achievement of the SDGs will depend in large part on their ability to mobilize financial and human resources;

b) that collaboration among all stakeholders on digital transformation can contribute to addressing the associated challenges and provide opportunities for all,

taking into account

- a) that telecommunications/ICTs are key enablers for social, environmental, cultural and economic development, and consequently for accelerating the timely attainment of the SDGs and associated targets;
- b) that new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies are key drivers for digital transformation, creating, at the same time, opportunities and challenges;
- c) that it is important to foster access to, and increased use of, telecommunications/ICTs and to facilitate innovation in support of the digital transformation of society,

recognizing

- a) that the digital economy continues to expand, and so, for developing countries to draw full benefit from the digital transformation, capacity building and capabilities are essential to promote socio-economic opportunities;
- b) that digitalization of the economy supports digital transformation;
- c) that telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services are important components of digital transformation of the economy and should be factored into national digital transformation strategies;
- d) that, given the electricity, connectivity and other infrastructure needs of the digital economy, developing an enabling environment for digital transformation is critical for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states,

recognizing further

that the study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) have made significant progress in their ongoing work related to digital transformation,

resolves to instruct the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to facilitate efforts within the Telecommunication Development Bureau, with the assistance of the ITU regional offices, to promote digital transformation in line with ITU-D priorities, regional initiatives, WSIS action lines, SDGs, study Questions and ITU-D projects;
- 2 to increase attention on projects related to new and emerging telecommunication/ICT services and technologies related to digital transformation through ITU-D priorities and regional initiatives, linking with the associated SDGs and WSIS action lines;
- 3 to continue to address matters related to key telecommunication/ICT enablers of digital transformation for a variety of services and local content, taking into consideration the related financing mechanisms for affordable and cost-effective solutions and the associated policies and strategies, including for a variety of services and local content;
- 4 to undertake studies and projects related to digital transformation policies and strategies, enabling developing countries to reap the full benefits of the digital economy;
- 5 to continue, and further develop, ITU-D activities on digital transformation, including training programmes and awareness campaigns, and to support global capacity-building efforts for digital transformation;
- 6 to promote and support national initiatives dedicated to the telecommunication/ICT dimensions of the digital economy;
- 7 to assist Member States, upon request, and within available resources, to develop national digital transformation strategies using relevant ITU-D tools and resources on digital transformation,

invites the Directors of the Radiocommunication Bureau, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau and the Telecommunication Development Bureau

- 1 to collaborate actively to fulfil the needs addressed by this resolution in areas of mutual interest related to digital-transformation technologies, within the framework of the "One ITU" approach and enhancing coordination among the three Sectors;

2 to ensure that the Sector advisory groups provide for coordination with the other Sectors in relation to digital-transformation technologies,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to provide all possible support for the implementation of this resolution and to contribute actively on relevant work under ITU-D study Questions,

invites the Secretary-General

1 to include digital transformation in the list of areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat;

2 to suggest that the Inter-Sector Coordination Group on issues of mutual interest consider digital transformation an area of mutual interest to the three Sectors.