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| **Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society**  **31st meeting – Geneva, 19-20 September 2017** |  |
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|  | **Document WG-WSIS-31/19-E** |
| **20 September 2017** |
| **English only** |

**Chairman, Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS)**

**SUMMARY OF THE 31st MEETING**

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| **Summary**  This report summarizes the main results of the 31st Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on the 19th and 20th September in line with [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) and [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016).](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)  **Action required**  To use these recommendations and proposals for the next meeting and to forward conclusions to the Council-18 for its consideration.  **References**  [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1); [UNGA Resolution A/71/212](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212); [UNGA Resolution A/70/299](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299); [UNGA Resolution A/70/684](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684); [UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2016/22](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2016/22); [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf); [PP-10 Resolution 172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/council/groups/wsis/docs/resolutions/PP10-Res-172.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en); [Council Resolution 1336 (Modified 2015)](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en);[WTSA-16 Resolution 75 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016)](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/res/T-RES-T.75-2016-PDF-E.pdf); [*Reports of 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th , 27th, 28th and 29th CWG WSIS meeting*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*Final WSIS Target Review*](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/wsisreview2014/WSIS2014_review.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Report; ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014).*](https://www.itu.int/itu-wsis/docs/WSIS-plus-10.pdf) |

1. **Introduction**

ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held its 31st meeting on the 19th and 20th of September 2017. The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf), and consequently [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016).](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)The Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS are listed in the Annex to the Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016) that was adopted at the ninth Plenary Meeting in Council 2016. More than 70 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members, participated in the meeting. The meeting considered 17 documents. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr Brahima Sanou, BDT Director, on behalf of the Secretary General and the meeting benefitted from the presence of Mr Chaesub Lee, TSB Director. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of the WG-WSIS. The newly appointed Vice-Chairs, Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Ms Clarisa Estol (Argentina), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Ms Nermine El Saadany (Egypt), Mr Cai Guolei (China) and Mr Ghislain de Salins (France) were congratulated and welcomed to this meeting.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda ([WG-WSIS-31/01](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0001/en)) reflecting the distribution of the documents was adopted as drafted. The group agreed:

* That Venezuela will present their contribution under agenda item 5.
* Secretariat was requested to update the agenda with two documents that were not listed in the agenda.

1. **Welcoming Remarks**

**Mr Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunications Development Bureau**, welcomed all participants to the meeting. Mr Sanou congratulated the Chairman of the Group for his great leadership and guidance in the WSIS Process and welcomed the newly appointed Vice–Chairs. He highlighted the importance of the work of this group reiterating that BDT is fully committed to the WSIS Process, and the work and mandate of the WSIS links very closely with the BDT towards ensuring that the WSIS Action Lines accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. While looking forward to welcoming all participants, Mr Sanou highlighted that the World Telecommunication Development Conference will be convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 9 to 20 October 2017.

Mr Sanou invited all participants to the WSIS Forum 2018 that will be held from the 19-23 March 2018 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He highlighted that, beyond 2015 and towards 2025, the WSIS Forum builds upon the outcomes of the UNGA Overall Review, which recognized the necessity of holding this Forum on an annual basis and which called for a close alignment between WSIS and SDG processes. Encouraging the sharing of best practices the WSIS Prizes 2018 will be awarded during the opening ceremony of the WSIS Forum 2018. Mr Sanou highlighted that the WSIS Forum is extra budgetary and it is successful due to its partners. Thereby he invited all membership to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2018.

Mr Sanou reiterated that ITU has been working with all stakeholders and Action Line facilitators towards a close alignment between the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, the WSIS-SDGs Matrix developed by UN WSIS Action Line facilitators and coordinated by the ITU was widely appreciated by the stakeholders engaged in the WSIS and the SDG process. In addition, he informed all participants that this year, ITU took over the chairmanship of the United Nations Group of the Information Society and is working closely with the 32 UN Member organizations on the work plan, also towards a UNGIS joint contribution to the HLPF 2018.

Mr Chaesub Lee, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, reiterated that the Standardization Sector carefully follows the outcomes of WSIS and WSIS Action Lines from the technical sense and analyses how the sector can address the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. Mr Lee highlighted the work of the security, climate change and environment groups at the TSB that are keen to follow the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. Mr Lee also brought attention to the fact that technical standards are very important tools for regulatory work and he recommended that attention should be paid to standards in the practical implementation of WSIS and other UN discussions.

The Chairman invited the Vice-Chairs present during the meeting, ie. Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia) and Mr Ghislain de Salins (France), to deliver remarks**.**

**Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda)** submitted a written intervention that was read out by the Secretariat. Ms Umutesi emphasized on the importance of engaging the regional layer in WSIS activities, she shared examples of the Africa Coordination meeting held during the WSIS Forum. She added that chairing the WSIS forum 2017 highlights Rwanda's progress and international repute in promoting technology and shaping a better future for humanity.

**Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia**) highlighted the important role and support of Saudi Arabia in the WSIS Process since its inception. Mr Al-Qurashi added that at the national level in Saudi Arabia the National Committee for Information Society which works closely with all stakeholders, and monitors the implementation of WSIS. Mr Al-Qurashi stressed that Saudi Arabia works closely with the ITU regional office and the UNESCWA, and he expressed his eagerness to work towards the future bearing in mind the SDGs, including important topics like digital economy issues.

**Mr Ghislain de Salins (France)** highlighted the need to work together towards alignment of SDGs and WSIS Action Lines. He added that linking digital issues with development policies is a high priority for the French government.

1. **Update on resolutions related to the WSIS process and SDGs:** 
   1. **ITU WSIS related resolutions**: Secretariat provided an update on the ITU WSIS related resolutions [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) and [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016).](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)
      1. **Outcomes of the Council-17**: Secretariat provided an oral briefing on the WSIS related discussions during Council-17. The dates of the WSIS Forum 2018 were discussed where the Secretariat was requested to explore dates that do not fall during Ramadan or Easter. In follow up to that request the Secretariat conducted thorough research and negotiations on the available venues to hold WSIS Forum 2018 and reported that based on availability of venue, WSIS Forum 2018 will be held from 19-23 March 2018.
   2. **UN resolutions, relevant reports, and decisions:** 
      1. Outcomes of 20th Session of the Commissions for Science and Technology for Development:
         1. CSTD secretariat provided a briefing on the 20th annual session of the CSTD held from 8 to12 May 2017 in Geneva on behalf of the Chairperson of the 20th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Mr Ruijun Wang from China.
         2. Updates were provided on the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC), CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. During its 20th session the Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled “Science, technology and innovation for development” and “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.” These resolutions were adopted by the Economic and Social Council last July (6 July 2017) ([E/RES/2017/22](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/22) and [E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)).
         3. The Commission selected “The role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030” and “Building digital competencies to benefit from existing and emerging technologies, with special focus on gender and youth dimensions” as the priority themes for consideration at its twenty-first session. The Commission, in cooperation with experts, will identify and consider specific aspects of the themes at its forthcoming intersessional panel meeting, which will be held from 6 to 8 November in Geneva.
         4. The twenty-first session of the CSTD will take place on 14-18 May 2018 also in Geneva.
         5. WGEC agreed to hold its fourth meeting from 25 to 27 September 2017 (next week) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. Contributions submitted by stakeholders as well as relevant information of the meeting are available on the website of the CSTD.
      2. ECOSOC Resolution on Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society: Secretariat provided an oral intervention on the 2017 ECOSOC Resolution [(E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)), highlighting the key paragraphs of the resolution that concern the work of the ITU.
      3. Outcomes of the High-Level Policy Forum 2017:A briefing was provided by the secretariat on the outcomes of the HLPF 2017 available in section A of Document [WG-WSIS-31-12](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0012/en).
2. **ITU’s activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation and follow-up, including activities according to the ITU Operational Plans.**

The following documents were presented by Secretariat:

* 1. **Updates on the ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WG-WSIS** ([WG-WSIS-31-07](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0007/en)**):**

ITU’sContribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes 2017 provides an overview of ITU activities and projects undertaken since 2017 in the context of the implementation of WSIS Outcomes, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report provides detailed information on the key WSIS related initiatives and activities carried out by the three sectors of the Union (Radiocommunication, Standardization, and Development Sectors) and the General Secretariat. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes 2017 is an annual report that provides updates on the tasks carried out by the ITU at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS Process. The report also links the WSIS Action Lines to the Sustainable Development Goals. Meeting was updated on the various activities implemented and facilitated at the global and regional level.

* 1. **Updated ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Line C2, C5, C6 (**[WG-WSIS-31-06](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0006/en)): ITU WSIS Action Line Roadmaps for C2, C5 and C6 are detailed plans to guide progress towards achieving the WSIS Implementation goals. They provide a broad vision and detailed overview of the activities planned within the mandate of the Union also showing clear linkages with the SDGs. Direct links between the activities, the strategic goals, relevant resolutions, programmes and initiatives of the ITU are highlighted clearly displaying the linkages with the SDGs. The roadmaps include timeframes, expected results, as well as list relevant partners. The roadmaps are living documents that will be updated regularly in an ongoing process.
  2. **WSIS Forum (2017/2018)** ([WG-WSIS-31-15](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0015/en)): The key outcomes and achievements of the WSIS Forum 2017 were presented.

WSIS Forum 2018 is scheduled to be held from the 19-23 March at the ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. The agenda and programme of the WSIS Forum are built through an Open Consultation Process. The open consultation process for the WSIS Forum 2018 is structured in five phases. Attention was brought to the following for action:

* Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum) by 30 January 2018  (this form is also to be used to request for Workshops and Exhibition space);
* Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2018 Multistakeholder High‐Level Track Facilitators;
* Launch of the WSIS Photo Contest 2018;
* Special Tracks at WSIS Forum 2018: Hackathon (“Hack Against Hunger”, in collaboration with FAO and IEEE), Virtual Reality, Innovation and TEDx Geneva.

The Open Consultation Process will include a collection of inputs from regional and national WSIS related events and the physical meetings of the Open Consultation Process will benefit from remote participation. Secretariat informed all participants that based on the inputs received from stakeholders and discussions with coorganizers, UNCTAD, UNESCO and UNDP, the proposed title of the WSIS Forum 2018 is “Leveraging ICTs and Building Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. Reference was made to ECOSOC Resolution 2017 [(E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)), para 37.

* 1. **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS/SDG processes**: An oral intervention was provided by the Secretariat on this agenda item. It was informed that with reference to the implementation and facilitation of WSIS at the regional level, efforts have been made towards strengthening engagement between the ITU Regional and Area Offices and the relevant regional organizations, including UN Regional Commissions and Regional Telecommunication Organizations. ITU has been working closely with the UN Regional Commissions towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2018 and as the Chairman of UNGIS.
  2. **WSIS-SDG Matrix**: **Updates** ([WG-WSIS-31-04](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0004/en)): ITU coordinated the WSIS Action Lines and SDG Matrix, developed by a number of United Nations agencies to map how ICTs may contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Matrix serves as an easy reference for stakeholders engaged in shaping the future of both, the WSIS processes beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Using the matrix as a reference all WSIS related work has been aligned with the SDGs drawing direct linkages of the WSIS Action Lines with the SDGs to continue strengthening the impact of ICTs for sustainable development. Attention was drawn towards the efforts made in strengthening this linkage in the WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes.
  3. **WSIS Stocktaking Process (2017/2018)** ([WG-WSIS-31-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0010/en)/ [WG-WSIS-31-03](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0003/en)) : A report was provided on the activities of the WSIS Stocktaking process in 2017 and details were provided about the 2018 call to all WSIS Stakeholders to continue submitting updates and new entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking by 9 February 2018](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking%20by%209%20February%202018). Submitted activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2018, which will be released at the WSIS Forum 2018. Reference was made to the 2017 ECOSOC resolution [(E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)) para 14.
  4. **WSIS Project Prizes (2017/2018)** ([WG-WSIS-31-11](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0011/en)/ [WG-WSIS-31-02](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0002/en)): WSIS Prizes 2017 contest provided a platform to identify and showcase success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and Sustainable Development Goals. The 18 winners were presented with awards at the WSIS Prizes 2017 ceremony during WSIS Forum 2017. Additionally, 72 WSIS Prize 2017 Champions (the first four runner-up projects in each category) were recognized during the special ceremony dedicated to their achievements. ITU is pleased to announce the launch of the 7th edition of the contest of the WSIS Prizes and call for submissions through the website ([www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)) by 2nd January 2018. The five phases of the WSIS Prizes 2018 were presented. Reference was made to 2017 ECOSOC Resolution [(E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)), para 60.
  5. **UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)** ([WG-WSIS-31-05](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0005/en)): ITU is the Chairman of the UNGIS for the year 2017-2018. A work plan was drawn up during the UNGIS working level meeting at the WSIS Forum 2017. In follow up to paragraph 12 of the UNGA Resolution the UN Group on the information Society is conducting a collaborative exercise to integrate the ICT components in the work plans leading towards the alignment between WSIS and SDG processes. ITU is also coordinating a calendar of UNGIS members events and a joint UNGIS contribution to HLPF 2018 as part of the work plan for 2017-2018. Reference was made to 2017 ECOSOC Resolution [(E/RES/2017/21](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2017/21)) para 15.
  6. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (2017/2018) (**[WG-WSIS-31-13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0013/en)): The theme for WTISD-17, “Big Data for Big Impact,” focused on the power of Big Data for development and aimed to explore how to turn imperfect, complex, often unstructured data into actionable information in a development context. WTISD-18 will mark the 153rd anniversary of ITU, highlighting the theme: “Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All”, in line with ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 68 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) and as decided by Council 2016.
  7. **Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development** ([WG-WSIS-31-14](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0014/en)): An update was provided on the role played by ITU in measuring the information society, in particular, ITUs role as the steering committee member for Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development. Additional information was provided on the Task Group on ICT for SDGs (TG-SDGs) that will prepare a thematic list of ICT indicators that will try to capture the cross-cutting and multi-faceted contribution of ICT to the SDGs. The 14th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 21-23 November 2016 and the Measuring the Information Society Report 2016 (MISR 2016), which has been published annually since 2009, features key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, including the ICT Development Index (IDI).
  8. **WSIS Fund in Trust** ([WG-WSIS-31-09](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0009/en)): The group thanked contributors to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2017, Japan, Poland, Philippines, Rwanda, Switzerland, World’s Global Telecom, IEEE, GeSI, ICANN, Internet Society (ISOC), and VEON, IFIP, CMAI/TEMA India, and Swiss Engineering, and encouraged all ITU membership to make a contribution to the fund for the year 2018. All stakeholders are invited to partner with the WSIS Forum 2018.
  9. **Contribution from Venezuela (**[WG-WSIS-31-17)](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0017/en): The contribution provides a detailed overview about the activities and projects conducted by Venezuela under the Action Lines C2, C5 and C6. The group appreciated the contribution by Venezuela and encouraged membership to contribute with such reports.

1. **ITU’s activities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
   1. Secretariat provided an update on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, presenting a document [WG-WSIS-31-12](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0012/en). The document included reporting on the below:
      1. Update on the global follow-up and review to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including ITU input to and activities at the High Level Political Forum 2017 and ITU activities towards High Level Political Forum 2018;
      2. ITU contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
      3. Update on the roadmap on SDGs.
2. The Group thanked the Secretariat for the detailed reporting and appreciated ITUs participation at and contribution to HLPF 2017.
3. Preparation for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018: Contribution from the Russian Federation [(WG-WSIS-31-16](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0016/en)): The Russian Federation presented the document containing preliminary draft revision [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf)- ITU’s role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and in the overall review by United Nations General Assembly of their implementation. The Group was informed that the contribution was submitted in order to get views concerning the proposed modification and take them into account in preparation of an input document to PP-18. The proposed text is based on the UNGA Resolutions A/70/1 and A/70/125 as well as on Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016) related to the ITU role in implementation of WSIS/SDGs outcomes and CWG-WSIS Terms of Reference. Taking into account the above-mentioned decisions it is proposed to consider WSIS and SDGs activities in one PP Resolution, revise PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014) accordingly, including modification of the title.

Several delegations expressed their appreciation to the Russian Federation for the proposal and indicated that they will consider this issue at their regional meetings. One delegation expressed the view that the new version of PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014) should contain references to the ITU Strategic Plan and also ask to clarify how Regional and Area offices should coordinate activities related to WSIS/SDGs with the UN Economic Regional Commissions and UN Development Group at the regional level. The Group expressed thanks to the Russian Federation for its inputs and invited membership and regional organizations to prepare and coordinate proposals on revision of PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014) before PP-18 in order to achieve the optimal result at the conference.

1. **The group considered and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to this meeting and made the following recommendations:**
   1. WSIS Forum 2017
      1. The outcomes of WSIS Forum 2017 were appreciated, in particular the clear linkage of each session with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs was highlighted as very useful and a good example also for the WTDC in guiding the participants on how to approach linkages between ICTs and SDGs, by using or creating similar heatmaps and matrix;
      2. The WSIS Forum 2017 Exhibition was considered as a good platform for knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices and forging partnerships. Secretariat was requested to include details of the WSIS Forum 2017 Exhibition in the information document [WG-WSIS-31-08](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0008/en);
      3. Secretariat was encouraged to continue strengthening the linkages between the activities at the WSIS Forum and the SDGs.
   2. WSIS Forum 2018
      1. ITU membership is encouraged:
         1. To attend and participate in the WSIS Forum 2018, scheduled to be held from 19-23 March, with the proposed title “Leveraging ICTs and Building Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, at the highest level possible contributing towards the high-level track, while emphasising on the crucial role of ICTs/ WSIS Action Lines in advancing the SDGs;
         2. To participate actively in building the agenda and programme of the event through the Open Consultation Process by 30th January 2018;
         3. To identify universities and groups of young coders to participate in the hackathon entitled “Hack Against Hunger” to be held during WSIS Forum 2018 and if possible, to sponsor their participation in the Hackathon;
         4. To contribute to the financial effort of organizing the WSIS Forum, taking into consideration the partnership packages proposed by the Secretariat.
      2. Secretariat was requested:
         1. To work closely with the ITU regional offices in collecting inputs for the WSIS Forum 2018 Open Consultation Process, WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes;
         2. To provide information related to ITU activities at the WSIS Forum, including how ITU-related activities are helping implement WSIS Action Lines and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
   3. WSIS Prizes 2018: ITU membership is encouraged to nominate projects for the WSIS Prizes 2018 for international recognition and appreciation of projects highlighting the linkage between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs by 2nd January 2018.
   4. WSIS Stocktaking:
      1. ITU membership is encouraged to share best practices in the WSIS Stocktaking highlighting the linkage between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs by 9th February 2018.
      2. Secretariat is requested to include the results of regional initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking reporting.
   5. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6: Secretariat is requested to update the roadmaps taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
   6. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development: Secretariat, in collaboration with WSIS Stakeholders, is encouraged to contribute to the work of the partnership task group on SDGs in finalizing the thematic list of ICT indicators.
   7. WSIS Fund in Trust: Membership and all WSIS Stakeholders are invited to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust and to explore the WSIS Forum 2018 partnership packaged presented by the secretariat.
   8. Regional Activities towards implementation of WSIS:
      1. Secretariat is requested to prepare a proposal for strengthening, through the regional/area offices and together with relevant regional telecommunication organizations, coordination at the regional level with the UN Economic Regional Commissions and UN Regional Development Groups, as well as all UN Agencies (in particular those acting as facilitators for WSIS Action Lines), under the process of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the aim of:
         1. advancing the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes;
         2. strengthening implementation of ICT for SDG actions through *Delivering as One UN approach*;
         3. programming of UN Development Assistance Frameworks, implementation of interagency, and multistakeholder projects, strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Stocktaking.
      2. Membership is invited to participate in the regional events organized by ITU and regional organizations on WSIS and SDGs.
   9. Secretariat is requested to consider, in context of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, the potential of the digital transformation of the economy.
   10. Secretariat is requested to present information on concrete ITU activities in order to achieve SDGs and WSIS Action Lines to assist membership in developing the draft strategic and financial plans.
   11. Secretariat is requested in these activities to take into account the outcomes of WTDC-17
2. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** 
   1. As a contribution to the next meeting of the WG-WSIS Secretariat is requested to:
      1. Provide detailed report and draft ITU input to HLPF, including the result of WTDC, and mentioning the crosscutting nature of SDGs with WSIS Action Lines;
      2. Further clarify the role of ITU in each SDG, crosscutting with the WSIS Action Lines;
      3. Present the updated ICT Mapping tool.
   2. ITU membership is encouraged to underline the contribution of ICT for SDGs, including activities in partnership with ITU, in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
3. **Initiating preparations towards PP-18** 
   1. Secretariat is requested:
      1. To prepare information to be included in the draft 4 year report of the WG-WSIS on the implementation of resolution 140 and the Council resolution 1332 to be submitted to Council 2018 and PP-18;
      2. To prepare materials for a draft final and comprehensive report on the ITU activities for WSIS implementation and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda together with proposals for further activities and submit it to Council 2018 through WG-WSIS.
   2. To invite membership to provide:
      1. Proposals for ITU activities on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be taken into account in considering possible revision of [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf);
      2. Contributions to the draft strategic plan in the parts relevant to WSIS Action Lines and SDGs;
      3. To discuss the possible amendments to [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) during the Regional preparatory meetings for PP-18 and share views between regional organizations.
4. The vice-chairs of the group are invited to inform the next meeting of the WG-WSIS on the ICT for SDGs strategy of their respective regions, including on the linkages between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
5. **Conclusions**
   1. Closing the meeting, the Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU Membership who participated in the work of the 31st meeting of CWG-WSIS and thanked the Vice-Chairs, especially Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Mr Ghislain de Salins (France) for their presence in the meeting and 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 SDG-WSIS Task Force, Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT and Mr Chaesub Lee, Director of TSB. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by Head of CSD Mr Catalin Marinescu and Secretariat Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr Vladimir Stankovic, Mr Michael Kioy and Mr Mario Castro Grande.
   2. The Group expressed its thanks to Prof. Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of the WG-WSIS, for efficient chairmanship and guidance.