|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2018 Geneva, 17-27 April 2018** |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C18/70-E** |
| **8 March 2018** |
| **Original: English** |
| Chairman of Council Working Group  on the World Summit on the Information Society (CWG-WSIS) | |
| Report on the Outcomes of the WG-WSIS meetings held since PP-14 | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the meetings of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held since the last 2014 Plenipotentiary Conference.  Action required  The Council is invited to **take note** of the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [Council Resolution 1332](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en) (Modified 2016) |

## Introduction

## The WG-WSIS was created in 2002 ([Resolution 1196](http://www.itu.int/md/S02-CL-C-0081/e)). Plenipotentiary Conference 2014 (PP‑14) endorsed the relevant work already undertaken and/or to be carried out by ITU in implementing the WSIS outcomes, under the aegis of Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) and the WSIS Task Force. PP-14 also considered that WG-WSIS has proven itself a successful mechanism for facilitating the input of Member States related to the ITU’s role in the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

## Resolution 1332 was revised in 2016 ([Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en) and it resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which the ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda, within the ITU’s mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by UN Agencies, working through the WG-WSIS. In addition, the Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS, annex to the [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en), were altered to include the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular monitoring and evaluation on a yearly basis the actions taken by ITU with respect to implementation of WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## The WG-WSIS is open to all ITU Member States and Sector Members and is chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation). Vice-chairs of the group are: 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).

## WG-WSIS Activities

## Since PP-14 the WG-WSIS facilitated inputs from membership on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through its regular meetings and circular letters, questionnaires or other appropriate methods of query.

## WG-WSIS held seven meetings and considered more than 140 documents. This document is comprised of a consolidation of the key undertakings of the group.

## Summary of the main results of the [26th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-WSIS26-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 29-30 January 2015, including the fifth meeting of the Dedicated Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (Document [WG-WSIS-26/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-WSIS26-C-0023/en)),

## Summary of the main results of the [27th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-WSIS27-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 29-30 September 2015 (Document [WG-WSIS-27/23](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-WSIS27-C-0023/en)),

## Summary of the main results of the [28th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 18-19 February 2016 (Document [WG-WSIS-28/22](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0022/en)),

## Summary of the main results of the [29th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS29-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 12-13 October 2016 (Document [WG-WSIS-29/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS29-C-0018/en)),

## Summary of the main results of the [30th Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 7-8 February 2017 (Document [WG-WSIS-30/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0017/en) ),

## Summary of the main results of the [31st Meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C/en) of the WG-WSIS; held 19-20 September 2017 (Document [WG-WSIS-31/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS31-C-0019/en)),

## Summary of the main results of the 32nd [Meeting](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-WSIS23-C-0017/en) of the WG-WSIS; held from 24-25 January 2018 (Document [WG-WSIS-32/19](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0019/en)).

## Outcomes of the WG-WSIS were submitted to each session of the Council, providing substantial guidance that facilitated decision-making processes, as listed below. More than 150 recommendations have been endorsed by Council since PP-14.

## Council 2015 took note of the Report of WG-WSIS (Document [C15/8-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0008/en)), endorsed its recommendations and approved Resolution 1332 (Modified 2015) - ITU role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at the 8th Plenary meeting (Document [C15/110-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0110/en)),

## Council 2016 took note of the Report of WG-WSIS (Document [C16/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0008/en)), endorsed its recommendations and modified Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016) - ITU role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Document [C-16/127](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)),

## Council 2017 took note of the Report of WG-WSIS (Document [C17/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0008/en)), endorsed its recommendations, considered the Comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS Implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Document [C17/47](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-C-0047/en)), prepared with comments by WG-WSIS.

## 2.4 The WG-WSIS continued to consider inputs from membership on implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the ITU, through circular letters, questionnaires and other appropriate methods of query. The following presents some of the examples of the consultations undertaken by ITU following the guidance of WG-WSIS:

## a) WSIS Forum 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018: Open Consultation Process on the Thematic Aspects and new innovative format.

## b) Reporting on WSIS Stocktaking database, nomination of projects for project prizes and call for action for WSIS Stocktaking Report in [2015](http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisstocktaking-report-2015.pdf), [2016](http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/pub/80dd7836-en), [2017](http://handle.itu.int/11.1002/pub/80f3623e-en) and 2018, launch of Success Stories [2015](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/Content/doc/reports/wsisstocktaking-successstories-2015.pdf), [2016](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/pol/S-POL-WSIS.SUCC_STORIES-2016-PDF-E.pdf), [2017](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/opb/pol/S-POL-WSIS.SUCC_STORIES-2017-PDF-E.pdf) and WSIS Stocktaking [Regional reports 2016-2017](http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktakingp/en/About/Reports).

## c) ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2017, 2018.

## 2.5 The WG-WSIS continued to monitor and evaluate on a yearly basis the actions taken by the ITU with respect to implementation of WSIS outcomes. The ITU Secretary General and the Directors of the Bureaux have regularly informed the WG-WSIS and Council on the work carried out to implement the decisions under [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf). More than 100 documents have been submitted by the secretariat to these meetings that are listed in the summaries of the meetings available on the [WG-WSIS webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx).

## 2.6 The Group took note of all documents from membership and the secretariat with appreciation and made the following observations and recommendations:

* + 1. Membership was encouraged to promote through its own networks the importance of implementation of WSIS outcomes, in particular the WSIS Forum, and engage in the preparatory process of the Forum 2015 inviting participation at the highest possible level.
    2. Membership was invited to report on its activities through WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Project Prizes, organization of activities at the WSIS Forum, including country workshops, thematic workshops, exhibition, and participation in the High-Level Dialogues, World Café, and WSIS Action Line Facilitation Meetings, Partnership Track, Innovation and Incubation Track.
    3. Names of the members of the expert group for the WSIS Project Prizes should be reflected on the website.
    4. The Group expressed its appreciation for all information provided by the secretariat and agreed to recommend to the Member States to intensify efforts for advocacy for ICTs and WSIS process within the Post-2015 Development Agenda Process.
    5. ITUs role and work in the UNGA WSIS Overall review process was appreciated. The successful ITU coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level event and its Multistakeholder Preparatory Process (MPP) was highly commended, in particular, the engagement of all stakeholders in the process and coordination with other Action Line Facilitators.
    6. Efforts of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and the Directors, as well as the secretariat for the UNGA overall review were highly appreciated.
    7. The ITU fulfilled all the entrusted mandates as per Resolution 1334 (Council, 2015) and in this regard it is recommended to the Council to suppress Resolution 1334.
    8. It was reiterated that the framework WSIS Action Lines should be used, to the extent possible, to evaluate, analyze, and indicate the impact of ICTs on SDGs.
    9. Taking into account synergies between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, creation of a separate track for SDGs within ITU was not recommended and both processes should be considered together at the governance and operational level.
    10. While the Group took note on the Chief Executives Board Statement recognizing WSIS Forum as a key forum for discussing of role of ICTs as a means of implementation of developing goal and targets, it was reiterated that UNGA overall review recognized that the WSIS Forum has been a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the World Summit outcomes by all stakeholders, and it should continue to be held annually.
    11. The Group commended the initiative of the Directors of the Bureaux for initiating the first mapping of their activities with the SDGs and recommended to present updated versions for the consideration of the membership at the respective Advisory Groups, in the context of the WSIS Framework. It was noted that some more consideration was required to clarify the way forward and build consensus. The ITU should focus on its expertise in ICTs and should work cooperatively with other UN Agencies.
    12. It was recommended to the Council-16 to instruct the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with Directors of the Bureaux, to ensure adequate ITU contribution to global follow-up and review of the SDG process, with due regard to the global mechanism for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as set out in General Assembly [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1) and in line with para 67 of the Outcome Document of the UNGA overall review ([UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125)).
    13. Activities of each Sector and the General Secretariat carried out in the context of WSIS and the SDGs should follow the respective mandates given by the ITU membership, keeping in mind that the 2030 Agenda did not provide new mandates for UN entities.
    14. The secretariat was requested to prepare more information on the relationship between Connect 2020 and WSIS Action Lines towards achieving the SDGs.
    15. TheGroup discussed the proposal of theRussian Federation ([WG-WSIS-28/09](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0009/en)) on the possible holding of a WSIS+15 High-Level event as an extended version of the WSIS Forum 2021(22) for consideration of implementation of WSIS Process and SDGs and preparation of contribution to 2023 High-level Political Forum respecting modalities established by UNGA. No agreement was reached on the proposal. The Group expressed its appreciation to the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-28/09](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0009/en)), USA ([WG-WSIS-28/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0010/en)) and Australia ([WG-WSIS-28/11](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-WSIS28-C-0011/en)) for their proposals towards further modification of [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)based on the outcomes of the UNGA Overall Review and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1) and [UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125)), and invited the authors of the contributions as well as other members of the Group to take into account these proposals and the discussions that took place during the 28th meeting during their preparation for Council-16. The Group invited the authors of these contributions and other interested parties to carry out consultations before Council-16 to coordinate the proposals to the extent possible.
    16. **WSIS Forum**:
        1. In line with the outcomes of the UNGA Overall Review, the WSIS Forum should continue to meet annually. It was reiterated that the Forum should maintain its focus on WSIS Action Lines and remain an important platform for sharing best practices.
        2. While appreciating the addition of the hackathon component to the WSIS Forums, ITU membership was encouraged to identify universities and the communities of young coders to participate in the hackathon.
        3. The secretariat was asked to improve the description of the WSIS Forum Outcome Document in order to avoid the perception that the WSIS Forum is a negotiation and decision-making body.
        4. The secretariat was invited to explore possible ways to strengthen multilingualism at the WSIS Forum while ITU membership and other stakeholders were encouraged to contribute financially or through bartering to defray the costs of interpretation and translation.
        5. 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;
        6. The WSIS Forum 2017 Exhibition was considered 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.
        7. Secretariat was encouraged to continue strengthening the linkages between the activities at the WSIS Forum and the SDGs.
        8. The secretariat was requested to strengthen communication regarding the way stakeholders may submit their requests for the workshops through the WSIS Forum formal submission form. An explanatory note might be needed for new stakeholders, as currently it may not be obvious.
        9. The 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 for the WSIS Forum.
        10. While appreciating all the efforts directed by the WSIS secretariat towards ensuring an appropriate level of accessibility at the WSIS Forum 2016, it was underlined that accessibility should remain a priority of the preparations towards the 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 of and the participation in the WSIS Forum.
        11. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute to the financial effort of organization of the WSIS Forum, considering the partnership packages proposed by the secretariat.
        12. WSIS Forum 2018: ITU membership was encouraged:
* 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;
* to participate actively in building the agenda and programme of the event through the Open Consultation Process by 30th January 2018;
* 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;
* to contribute to the financial effort of organizing the WSIS Forum, taking into consideration the partnership packages proposed by the Secretariat.
  + - 1. Membership appreciated all efforts made and updates received towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2018.
      2. Secretariat was requested:
         * to work closely with the ITU regional offices in collecting input for the WSIS Forum 2018 Open Consultation Process, WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes;
         * 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.
         * to organize an information session on PP-18 as part of the WSIS Forum 2018 Agenda and programme.
         * to plan the celebration of 15 years of implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action at the WSIS Forum 2018.
         * to submit the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 to the High-Level Political Forum 2018.
         * to make all possible efforts to explore the possibility of providing interpretation in six UN languages to the various sessions. Further it is proposed to proceed with the translation of WSIS Forum standard webpages such as but not exclusively, the registration information and form, WSIS Prize information and submission form, general cover page of the WSIS Forum, the about page, photo contest and the open consultation process.
         * to work closely with the ITU regional offices while building the agenda and the programme of the WSIS Forum 2018.
         * 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.
    1. **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 ITU in context of WSIS. The secretariat was requested to better reflect the impact and the result orientation of the activities 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. The efforts made by the secretariat to streamline the ITU annual report to avoid duplication were appreciated.
       4. The secretariat was encouraged to strengthen further the section on regional implementation of WSIS Outcomes highlighting the work in collaboration with regional/area offices and with relevant regional telecommunication organizations and UN Economic Regional Commissions.
       5. It is essential to use the terminology agreed upon at the United Nations General Assembly.
       6. ITU membership was encouraged to participate in the final open consultation physical meeting on 26 February, in order to ensure that the WSIS Forum corresponds to the needs of the WSIS Stakeholders.
       7. Documents presented by the secretariat to the Council Working Group on WSIS should be made available at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
       8. All stakeholders were invited to engage in the WSIS Stocktaking and Prizes Process in order to enrich the database and reporting on ICT-related projects implemented world-wide.
       9. 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.
       10. In addition the Group proposed to Council-17:
           - to note with appreciation the 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 an internal tool for reporting on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS-SDG-Connect 2020.
           - to recommend that the secretariat:
           - 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;
           - reflect in the annual Report concrete figures for the assessment of Connect 2020 goals and targets.
    2. **WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix**:
       1. Implementation and follow-up on the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix (WSIS-SDGs Matrix) through ITU activities should be strengthened in close collaboration with all involved UN Agencies with the aim of contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
       2. The Group took note of the follow-up actions by the UN agencies on the WSIS -SDGs Matrix, encouraging the secretariat to continue working in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies.
       3. The secretariat was requested to explore the ways to visualize the link to ITU Connect 2020 Agenda.
       4. The Group recommended that the secretariat strengthen the efforts of linking the WSIS-SDGs Matrix developed by the UN agencies with the ongoing exercise of the WSIS Stocktaking and Prizes, seeking validation of relationships proposed by UN agencies, simultaneously transforming the WSIS-SDGs Matrix into an evidence-based, regularly updated (i.e. after UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 19, 23 and 27) guiding tool.
       5. The WSIS-SDGs Matrix was appreciated as a useful document and a helpful guide to consider the relationship between WSIS, in particular, ICTs and SDGs.
       6. Membership appreciated the follow-up actions and implementation of the WSIS-SDGs Matrix.
       7. The secretariat was encouraged to further strengthen the effective implementation on the ground moving towards evidence based policy-making
    3. **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.
       2. It was underlined that regional coordination mechanisms should be better engaged in the future. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute their projects to the stocktaking mechanism at the regional level.
       3. 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 SDG processes.
       4. The offering of embeddable interfaces was appreciated. ITU membership was encouraged to share best practices in the WSIS Stocktaking highlighting the linkage between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs by 9 February 2018.
       5. The secretariat was requested:
          - to include the results of regional initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking reporting.
          - to explore mechanisms for impact analysis of the projects submitted to the WSIS Stocktaking Database.
          - to strengthen communications and make the stocktaking platform more interactive thereby encouraging stakeholders to engage actively and make best use of the various services and products provided.
          - to organize workshops at the WSIS Forum 2018 on WSIS Stocktaking process and to present the summary to the next WG-WSIS.
    4. **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.
       2. The secretariat was requested to continue collaboration with UN agencies on this activity. Membership was 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.
       3. Membership appreciated the submission of more than 600 projects to the contest of WSIS Prize 2018.
       4. Membership was encouraged to promote participation of Stakeholders in the Voting Process.
       5. The secretariat was requested to make an extra effort to facilitate a special session for former WSIS Prize Winners and Champions at the WSIS Forum 2018.
    5. **WSIS Roadmaps for AL C2, C5, C6** :
       1. While appreciating initial efforts of the secretariat in preparing a road map of ITU’s activities related to the SDGs (Annex 1 to Document WG/28/12), the secretariat was requested to update the document and present it to Council-16 taking into account the cross-cutting character of the WSIS Action Lines, their links to the SDGs and the recommendations made by Member States. This road map should be prepared in a harmonized, coordinated, and coherent manner to avoid duplication of efforts.
       2. The Group took note of the document concluding that it should be considered by advisory groups during their discussions on the contribution of the Sectors to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
       3. The secretariat was requested to update the roadmaps taking into account the outcomes of WTDC-17 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
       4. The secretariat was requested to align the roadmaps with the present and future Strategic and Operational plans of the Union.
    6. United Nations Group on the Information Society: The secretariat was requested to provide a document on UNGIS activities with updates and actions planned to the next WG-WSIS.
    7. **WSIS Fund in Trust:** The Group took note of the contributions made by stakeholders in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 with appreciation and all stakeholders were encouraged to consider contributing to the WSIS Fund in Trust for future WSIS Forums.
    8. Regional Activities towards implementation of WSIS:
       1. The secretariat was 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:
          - advancing the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes;
          - strengthening implementation of ICT for SDG actions through *Delivering as One UN approach*;
          - 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 was invited to participate in the regional events organized by ITU and regional organizations on WSIS and SDGs.
    9. The secretariat was requested to consider, in context of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, the potential of the digital transformation of the economy.
    10. The secretariat was 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. The secretariat was requested in these activities to take into account the outcomes of WTDC-17.
    12. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development:
        1. ICT Indicators included in the ITU statistics are the same ICT indicators included in the SDGs. Member States were encouraged to make that data available for those indicators are collected at the national level. Some member states expressed that actions envisaged under [WTDC-17 Resolution 8 (REV. Buenos Aires, 2017)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/en) to be taken into consideration in benchmarking the ICT Development Index for 2018, taking into consideration the feasibility and relevance of indicators.
        2. Membership recommended that secretariat should work with regional telecommunications organizations and UN regional commissions to improve the availability of data particularly those that are currently used in the ICT Development Index included in the Measuring the Information Society Report.
        3. The secretariat was requested:
           - to include again the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and studies on affordability of ICTs in MIS Report 2018 and all subsequent MIS reports, given the importance for policy-making in countries.
           - to continue to contribute to the work on measuring the digital economy within ITUs mandate.

1. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** 
   1. Council-16 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps to achieve the 2030 Agenda, within ITU’s mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDGs Matrix developed by UN Agencies, working through the CWG-WSIS.
   2. Contributions from Member States included two documents from the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-29/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS29-C-0017/en); [WG-WSIS-30/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS29-C-0013/en)) on ITU contribution towards ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and Proposals for the WG-WSIS Report to Council-17.
   3. **The Group took note of all documents from membership and secretariat with appreciation and made the following observations and recommendations:**
      1. Information on the side events held at the HLPF should be submitted to the Group for its consideration;
      2. A 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. The secretariat should explore the possibility of providing the tool in the six UN languages;
      4. The secretariat should present the relevant SDGs roadmap at the 30th Meeting of the WG-WSIS;
      5. Request the General Secretariat and three Bureaux to take into account themes and relevant sets of SDGs for the HLPF on Sustainable Development in 2017, 2018 and 2019 under developing operational plans, roadmaps and strategic plan;
      6. Request the secretariat to submit a 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 that the 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-17;
      9. To recommend the 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 the elaboration of the very exhaustive draft ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum and made the following comments:
          1. The document should start with a general introduction explaining ITU’s and ICTs’ contribution to SDGs, recognizing the need to harness the role of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development, followed by a short section focused on the SDGs under consideration by HLPF-17;
          2. The 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:
             * How to build effective public/private partnerships?
             * How to recognize and harness the role of ICTs as crosscutting enablers for sustainable development?
             * How to build an enabling environment for investment?
      11. 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;
      12. Structure needs to follow the template provided by the UN.
      13. 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 WSIS website.
          2. Membership to provide comments to the secretariat by 10 March.
          3. The secretariat to post the final draft on CWG-WSIS website by 24 March.
          4. Membership to provide final comments to the secretariat by 7 April.
          5. The secretariat submits the final text to UN before the deadline of 28 April.
      14. The secretariat was 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;
          4. Membership was 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.

3.4 ITU Activities towards High Level Political Forum 2018:

a) Membership recognized the WSIS-SDGs Matrix as an important and powerful tool to streamline efforts and resources.

b) The secretariat was requested:

* + - 1. to include the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 in the ITU Council Contribution to the High Level Political Forum 2018 clearly indicating the linkages between WSIS Action lines and SDGs;
      2. to reflect appropriately the WSIS Action Lines and the role of WSIS Action Lines in achieving the SDGs, in particular, to include appropriate reference to the WSIS-SDGs Matrix.

1. **Update on the Roadmap on SDGs:**
   1. The secretariat was requested to provide an updated document on the SDG Roadmap to the Council highlighting the close linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
2. **Update on Regional Activities** **(CEPT Region)**: Mr Ghislain de Salins, Vice-Chairman of WG-WS (France) presented an update on the implementation of WSIS Outcomes in CEPT region ([WG-WSIS-32-17](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0017/en)). The contribution focused on the Digital Single Market Strategy (DSM) of the European Union as a significant initiative to implement the WSIS Outcomes in the CEPT region.
   1. The group appreciated the document presented by the Vice-Chairman WG-WSIS of CEPT Region.
   2. The vice-chairs of the Group are invited to present similar documents on the ICT for SDGs strategy of their respective regions, including on the linkages between WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
3. **Proposals on Resolution 1332 and 1334**
   1. The Group took note of all the documents with appreciation and made the following observations and recommendations to Council-16:
      1. To recognize and appreciate efforts made by the ITU Secretary-General in the implementation of Council-15 Resolutions 1332 (Mod. 2015) and 1334 (Mod. 2015), including submission to the December 2015 UNGA Overall Review the successful outcomes of the ITU‑coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level event elaborated through its MPP and ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014) Review.
      2. To recommend the secretariat to update the road map in Document WSIS/28/12 to reflect how the WSIS Framework can be used to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
      3. To recommend to the Bureaux and the General Secretariat to review, and if necessary revise, the draft four-year rolling Operational Plan for 2017–2020 and the road maps for Action Lines C2, C5, and C6, taking into account the outcomes of the UNGA Overall Review and 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
      4. To recommend ITU-D and ITU-T, in cooperation with regional organizations, to include in the draft agenda of Regional Development Forums and Regional Preparatory Meetings for WTSA-16 and WTDC-17 issues of implementation of the SDGs, in the context of WSIS Framework.
      5. To invite Member States, Sector Members, and regional organizations undertaking preparation of proposals for new regional initiatives to take into account the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of Post-2015 Development Agenda, linking them to the fulfilment of Connect 2020 and relevant WSIS Action Lines.
      6. To encourage the WG-WSIS, consistent with its Terms of Reference, to increase its focus on monitoring, evaluating, and providing guidance on the actions taken by ITU with respect to activities that help implement the relevant WSIS outcomes, including ITU’s activities related to implementing and facilitating the relevant WSIS Action Lines.
      7. The WG-WSIS will identify ways that the WSIS framework can help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically play a role in reviewing the ITU’s reporting and work plans to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as called for in Paragraph 12 of UNGA Resolution 70/125. This is a vital undertaking, given the crosscutting nature of this work and the fact that many of ITU’s WSIS-related activities are taking place within the sectors of the Union.
      8. To suppress Resolution 1334 as fully implemented.
4. **Initiating preparations towards PP-18** 
   1. 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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) 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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf)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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) before PP-18 in order to achieve the optimal result at the conference.
   2. The secretariat was requested:
      1. To prepare information to be included in the draft 4 year report of the WG-WSIS on the implementation of [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) and the [Council Resolution 1332 (Mod. 2016)](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en) to be submitted to Council 2018 and in the progress report of the ITU Secretary-General on the ITU activities for WSIS implementation to be submitted to 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.
      3. 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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://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 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://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.
   3. **Russian Federation, Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, and Belarus:** [WG-WSIS-32-13](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0013/en): The document made several recommendations including:

a) to recommend that the secretariat refines [WG-WSIS-32-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0010/en) or prepares a new document complying with decisions of [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://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)regarding final and comprehensive report on the ITU activities for WSIS implementation and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda together with proposals for further activities to be submitted at Council 2018 and PP-18.

b) to reflect more comprehensively decisions of WTDC-17, particularly regarding the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in documents [WG-WSIS-32-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0010/en) and [WG-WSIS-32-11](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0011/en) .

c) among proposals on further activity, to reflect main events, documents, trends and objectives in the field of WSIS/SDGs, which emerged since 2014, taking into account UNGA Resolutions 70/1 and 70/125, as well as WTSA-16 Resolution 75 and WTDC-17 Resolution 30.

d) The group supported the proposals above.

e) The Russian Federation also proposed draft revisions to[PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf).

**7.4 Contribution from the People’s Republic of China (**[WG-WSIS-32-14](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0014/en)):People’s Republic of China proposed the following in their contribution:

a) to update [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) by adding relevant contents of the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development to promote and ITU to play a more active role in the implementation of WSIS and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

b) to include the contents about the promotion of the development of digital economy, taking in account the relationship between the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the development of digital economy as well as the essential role of telecommunication/ICT in digital transformation and the development of digital economy in particular.

7.5 The Group thanked the Member States for submitting the contribution on revising [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf)

7.6 All membership was encouraged to work together in a constructive manner in advance to agree on the proposals for revision of [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf), also taking into account the regional preparatory activities for PP-18.

1. **Consideration of Reports to Council 18**

8.1 Comprehensive Report Detailing the Activities, Actions, and Engagements that the Union is undertaking in Context to the WSIS Implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [WG-WSIS-32-16](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0016/en)

a) The Group requested inclusion of the comments above, as well as, the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcomes.

**8.2 Reports of WG-WSIS to Council 18:**

a) Final 4-year report to Council 18 [WG-WSIS-32-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0010/en)

b) Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS Activities since Council- 2017 [WG-WSIS-32-19](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0019/en)

8.3 The Group considered and approved these reports.

**9 Conclusions**

9.1 This “Draft report on the outcomes of the WG-WSIS meetings held since PP-14” had been provided for consideration of the 32nd meeting of the WG-WSIS. After discussion and approval it has been made available at [www.itu.int/wg-wsis](http://www.itu.int/wg-wsis) and submitted to the Council-18.

9.1 On behalf of the WG-WSIS, I would like to give special thanks to all the ITU Member States and Sector Members who made contributions and participated in the work of the WG-WSIS since PP-14, and 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). I would also like to thank 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, Mr François Rancy, Director of BR and Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief of SPM and the General Secretariat, in particular, assistance by Head of CSD Mr Catalin Marinescu, and Secretariat Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr Vladimir Stankovic, Mr Michael Kioy, Ms Esperanza Magpantay and Mr Mario Castro Grande. I would like to address a special appreciation to Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, former secretary of WG-WSIS for his excellent and fruitful work and support during many years.