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| **Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society**  **32nd meeting – Geneva, 24-25 January 2018** |  |
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|  | **Document WG-WSIS-32/18-E** |
| **25 January 2018** |
| **English only** |

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

**SUMMARY OF THE 32nd MEETING**

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| **Summary**  This report summarizes the main results of the 32nd Meeting of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on the 24th and 25th January 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); [WTDC 2017 Resolution 30 (REV. Buenos Aires, 2017)](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-WTDC17-C-0115/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, 29th , 30th and 31st CWG WSIS meeting*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*s;* [*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 32nd meeting on the 24th and 25th of January 2018. The work of the WG-WSIS is based on the Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016) and conducted in line with [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Busan, 2014)](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf). 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 Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, and the meeting benefitted from the presence of Mr Brahima Sanou, BDT Director. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of the WG-WSIS. The Vice-Chairs, Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Mr Cai Guolei (China) and Mr Ghislain de Salins (France) were present.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda ([WG-WSIS-32/01](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0001/en) rev2) reflecting the distribution of the documents was adopted as drafted.

1. **Welcoming Remarks**

Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, ITU welcomed all the participants to the meeting, and wished all a happy new year. He thanked the Chairman of the group for his leadership of the WSIS Process. Mr Zhao invited all participants to the WSIS Forum 2018 that will be held from 19-23 March 2018 at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. He announced that H.E. Eng. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, Deputy-Director General, TRA Telecommunication Sector, United Arab Emirates has been appointed as the chairman designate of the Forum. He also recognized that this year marks the 15th anniversary of the first phase of the summit, held in Geneva in 2003. Mr Zhao noted the excitement, inclusive spirit, and commitment reflected by the multistakeholder community at the Forum. He invited participants to attend the second physical meeting of the multistakeholder Open Consultation Process, to be held on 24 January 2018 from 17:00 – 18:00. He also thanked the partners of the WSIS Forum 2018, including Japan, Poland, Rwanda, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, ICANN, IEEE, and INWES for their support for the WSIS Forum.

Mr Zhao described the work of ITU, in cooperation with all stakeholders and Action Line Facilitators, in closely aligning the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He specifically noted the success of the WSIS-SDG Matrix. He also provided an update of recent discussions during the broadband commission meeting at the World Economic Forum that also highlighted the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs. He noted that while mobile broadband access reaches around 80% of the world’s population, there is still more work to do in expanding usage.

Mr Zhao also commented that WSIS Forum will occur earlier in the year than it has in the past. Because of this shortened timeline, he encouraged participants to engage in the process early in order to have the most productive Forum possible. He encouraged participants to vote for the WSIS Prizes contest and to be aware of upcoming deadlines.

1. **Update on resolutions related to the WSIS process and SDGs:** 
   1. **ITU WSIS related resolutions**: Chairman provided an update on the ITU WSIS related resolutions in particular [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)
   2. **UN resolutions, relevant reports, and decisions:** 
      1. Mr Peter Major, Vice-Chair of CSTD provided an update on the CSTD 2017-2018 intersessional panel that was held on the themes of sustainable energy and quality education, with a special focus on building digital skills. In a meeting held last November, presentations were given on different aspects of how to improve the education in the digital era and how fundamental they are in a rapidly changing environment. Outcomes of the above will be finalised in 21st Session of the CSTD in May 2018.
      2. The Chair of CSTD was instructed by the UNGA to create a WG on enhanced cooperation. WG EC chaired by Ambassador Benidicto Fonseco Filho (Brazil) included 42 members altogether, with member states, civil society and business all represented. Four meetings have been held until now, with the next and final one scheduled for the week of 29 January to 31 January, while the draft report shall to be submitted to CSTD in May 2018.
      3. Membership was encouraged all to attend the meetings and those interested to look at the document and reflect their opinions.
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 (2017 Report, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development WG-WSIS** ([WG-WSIS-32-03](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0003/en); [WG-WSIS-32-15](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0015/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 and the General Secretariat. This annual report 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.
  2. **WSIS Action Lines Roadmaps C2, C5, C6 (Updated 2017) (**[WG-WSIS-32-12](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0012/en)): ITU WSIS Action Line Roadmaps for C2, C5 and C6 were updated to include the outcomes of WTDC 2017. Roadmaps 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 lists of relevant partners. The roadmaps are living documents that will be updated regularly in an ongoing process.
  3. **WSIS Forum (2018)** ([WG-WSIS-32-02](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0002/en)): WSIS Forum 2018 is scheduled to be held from the 19-23 March at the ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. The agenda and program 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: Deadline 30th January
* WSIS Photo Contest 2018: Deadline 9 February 2018
* Special Tracks at WSIS Forum 2018: Hackathon (“Hack Against Hunger”, in collaboration with ITU and FAO), Virtual Reality for Education, Innovation, ICT Solutions for SDGs and TEDx Geneva.
* Youth Engagement at the Forum: Several activities have been planned for engaging the youth in the WSIS Forum and eventually the WSIS Process.

The results of 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 on the Preliminary results of the OCP and the preparations made towards WSIS Forum 2018.

* 1. **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS/SDG processes**: An oral contribution 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 Action Lines and SDGs (WSIS-SDG Matrix**) ([WG-WSIS-32-09](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0009/en)): With the objective of strengthening the alignment of the WSIS with the SDGs, the overall theme for **WSIS Forum 2018** ([www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)) is *Leveraging ICTs to Build Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. Several efforts have been made to implement this alignment in a practical way including in the WSIS Forum 2018 Agenda, the outcomes of all the workshops, the WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) and the WSIS Prize 2018 ([www.wsis.org/prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes)).
  3. **WSIS Stocktaking Process (2018)** ([WG-WSIS-32-05](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0005/en)) A report on the activities of the WSIS Stocktaking process in 2017 was delivered and details about the 2018 call to all WSIS Stakeholders to continue submitting updates and new entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) were provided. Besides information on the ongoing preparation of the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2018 (10th edition), information was also provided on the WSIS Stocktaking Regional Reports 2016-2018 that are being prepared in parallel. WSIS Stocktaking 2018 publications will be released at the WSIS Forum 2018 and contributing sessions will be organised to further improve the process. WSIS Stocktaking platform is undergoing major update, including more interactive interface with new features such as geographical map of WSIS Action Lines implementation, calendar of ICT4SDG events, blog, interactive matrix, embeddable interface etc. and will be launched during the WSIS Forum 2018. Report on the WSIS Photo Contest 2017 was presented and all stakeholders were invited to promote the new call for the 2018 with the deadline of 9 February for submissions.
  4. **WSIS Prizes (2018)** ([WG-WSIS-32-06](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0006/en)): WSIS Prizes 2018 contest provides a platform to identify and showcase success stories across the WSIS Action Lines defined in the Geneva Plan of Action and Sustainable Development Goals. For the seventh year in a row, the WSIS Prizes 2018 will be recognizing outstanding success stories from around the world for their part in building an inclusive information society. The Submission phase of the 2018 contest finished on 10 January and the Online Voting phase of the WSIS Prizes 2018 was presented while stakeholders were invited to promote it within their communities and networks. The eighteen winners and seventy-two champions of the WSIS Prizes will be presented with an award at the special ceremonies of the WSIS Forum 2018. Awarded activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories 2018 and promoted through the various WSIS communication channels, including social media platforms. Special session for the former WSIS Prizes Winners and Champions will take place at the WSIS Forum 2018 with the objective to engage them in online and community advocacy, while seeking their input related to the future progress of the contest and its awardees. 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 chairs 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 (2018) (**[WG-WSIS-32-07](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0007/en)): 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. WTISD 2018 will take place in the context of the AI for Good (Global Summit).
  7. **Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development** ([WG-WSIS-32-08](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0008/en)): ITU continues to be an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development and together with UNCTAD and UIS is one of the three members of its Steering Committee. An update was provided on recent activities and progress achieved.
  8. **WSIS Fund in Trust** ([WG-WSIS-32-04](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0004/en)): The group thanked contributors to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2018 Japan, Poland, Rwanda, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, IEEE, ICANN, and INWES, 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.

1. **The group considered and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to this meeting and made the following recommendations:**
   1. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes (2017 Report), taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
      1. 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.
   2. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6
      1. Secretariat was requested to align the roadmaps with the present and future Strategic and Operational plans of the Union.
   3. WSIS Forum 2018
      1. Membership appreciated all efforts made and updates received towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2018.
      2. **Discussion on WSIS Forum**:
         1. **Using six UN official languages at equal footing at WSIS Forum:**

Some participants called on the ITU Secretariat to make a more deliberate effort to provide interpretation in the six UN official languages at every session of the WSIS Forum.  Organising a Forum which was only accessible to only a small portion of individuals was of limited value. The current approach of expecting sponsors to pay for interpretation and translation of WSIS Forum documents was not tenable.  ITU must work within the existing budget for the Forum to ensure interpretation first and foremost without relying on extra-budgetary contributions to decide whether it can do so.  In this context, it would be acceptable to consider shortening the Forum to three days rather than five while ensuring the full and equal participation of all through the availability of interpretation in six official languages for all sessions.  In addition to the interpretation, the issue of the WSIS Forum web site was also raised.  It was noted that, despite repeated calls for this to be resolved in meetings and during consultations, most of the website relating to the WSIS Forum was only in English.  This was deemed to be unacceptable as pages like those calling for registration and submissions needed to be translated only once and then only required a minimal annual update to reflect appropriate dates.

Some members expressed their opinion that WSIS Forum is significant global platform for joining efforts of various stakeholders and supported that WSIS Forum should continue for the same number of days, as is, and to continue to increase its visibility. They also agreed with the comment made by the Chairman that the ITU is not the only UN agency responsible for organizing the WSIS Forum and that all the matters related to it should be discussed during the Open Consultation Process, together with other UN organizations and stakeholders involved. Some members, while supporting the idea of providing the interpretation to six official UN languages, to the extent possible, to make the WSIS Forum more inclusive, expressed their concern with the budgetary restraints that WSIS Forum organizers could face. Examples of current interpretation practice for other UN Forums were made, such as IGF.

At the request of the group the secretariat provided an input on the available budgets and efforts made towards ensuring inclusiveness, accessibility and openness at the WSIS Forum. Secretariat emphasised that WSIS Forum is an extrabudgetary activity and the budget is based on voluntary contributions. WSIS Forum operational costs are defrayed by the contributions received in the form of Partnerships. Secretariat highlighted that over the years all efforts are made in collaboration with stakeholders, within limited budgets, towards providing services like captioning and interpretation for all plenary sessions and high level tracks and various social events for all participants. Concerted efforts are also made towards equal representation of all voices in the agenda, gender equality, representation of all regions and sectors. Shortening the WSIS Forum may impose time limitations and we may not be able to include all requests received from stakeholders in the agenda and programme. Appreciating all efforts, we may note that participation has increased from 1300 in 2012 to over 2000 in 2017.

* + - 1. PP-18 Information Session at WSIS Forum 2018:

Some member states questioned the pertinence of holding an ITU led information session on the PP-18 as part of the WSIS Forum 2018 agenda and programme. The WSIS Forum deriving an agenda based on stakeholder proposals there was concern that the ITU should use one session slot to discuss elements of a conference closed to stakeholder input and participation as the PP is reserved to member states.

Some members consider that such an information session will provide for many stakeholders information on ITU activities including for implementation of WSIS Outcomes and achieving SDGs and the proposal for creation of such a session was agreed at the open consultation meeting.

* + 1. Secretariat was encouraged :
       1. to organize an information session on PP-18 as part of the WSIS Forum 2018 Agenda and programme.
       2. to plan the celebration of 15 years of implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action at the WSIS Forum 2018.
       3. to submit the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 to the High-Level Political Forum 2018.
       4. 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.
       5. to work closely with the ITU regional offices while building the agenda and the programme of the WSIS Forum 2018
       6. 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.
    2. 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 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;
       3. to contribute to the financial effort of organizing the WSIS Forum, taking into consideration the partnership packages proposed by the Secretariat.
  1. 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, 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.
  2. WSIS-SDG Matrix:
     1. Membership appreciated the follow-up actions and implementation of the WSIS and SDGs Matrix.
     2. Secretariat was encouraged to further strengthen the effective implementation on the ground moving towards evidence based policy making.
  3. WSIS Prizes 2018:
     1. Membership appreciated the submission of more than 600 projects to the contest of WSIS Prize 2018.
     2. Membership was encouraged to promote participation of Stakeholders in the Voting Process.
     3. 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.
  4. WSIS Stocktaking:
     1. Secretariat was requested
        1. to explore mechanisms for impact analysis of the projects submitted to the WSIS Stocktaking Database.
        2. 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.
        3. to organize workshops at the WSIS Forum 2018 on WSIS Stocktaking process and to present the summary to the next WG-WSIS.
  5. UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS):
     1. Secretariat was requested to provide a document on UNGIS activities with updates and actions planned to the next WG-WSIS.
  6. 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) 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. Secretariat was requested:
        1. to reinclude the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and studies on affordability of ICTs in MIS Report 2018 and all subsequent MIS reports, given  importance for policy making in countries
        2. to continue to contribute to the work on measuring the digital economy within ITUs mandate.
  7. WSIS Fund in Trust: Membership and all WSIS Stakeholders were invited to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust and to explore the WSIS Forum 2018 partnership packaged presented by the secretariat. Confirmed partners of the WSIS Forum 2018 were thanked and acknowledged, including Japan, Poland, Rwanda, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, ICANN, IEEE, and INWES.

1. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** 
   1. **ITU Activities towards High-Level Political Forum 2018:** 
      1. Membership recognized the WSIS-SDGs Matrix as an important and powerful tool to streamline efforts and resources.
      2. 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
   2. **Update on the Roadmap on SDGs:**
      1. Secretariat was requested to provide an updated document on the SDG Roadmap to Council highlighting the close linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs
2. **Initiating preparations towards PP-18** 
   1. **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:
      1. to recommend that Secretariat refines Doc.CWG-WSIS-32/10 or prepares a new document complying with decisions of PP-14 Resolution 140 and Council-16 Resolution 1332 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.As proposal
      2. to reflect more comprehensively decisions of WTDC-17, particularly regarding the Buenos Aires Action Plan, in documents CWG-WSIS-32/10 and 32/11.
      3. 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.
      4. The group supported the proposals above.
      5. 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)
   2. **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:
      1. 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.
      2. 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.
   3. 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)
   4. 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.
3. **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.
4. Consideration of Reports to Council 18
   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)
      1. Group requested inclusion of the comments above, as well as, the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2018 Outcomes.
   2. **Reports of WG-WSIS to Council 18:**
      1. Final 4-year report to Council 18 and PP-18 [WG-WSIS-32-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0010/en)
      2. Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS Activities since Council- 2017 [WG-WSIS-32-16](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-WSIS32-C-0016/en)
   3. Group considered and approved these reports.
5. **Other Business**

At the request of the Chairman, the Group considered not to use the terms Digital Society, as noted in the Strategic Plan, for WSIS. The group agreed that the term Information Society or Information and Knowledge societies shall be used for the WSIS Process.

1. **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) and Mr Cai Guolei (China) 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 and Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by Head of CSD Mr Catalin Marinescu and Secretariat Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr Vladimir Stankovic, Mr Michael Kioy, Mr Mario Castro Grande and Ms Esperanza Magpantay.
   2. The Group expressed its thanks to Prof. Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of the WG-WSIS, for efficient chairmanship and guidance.