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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C19/8-E** |
| **13 March 2019** |
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| Chairman, Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) | |
| REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CWG-WSIS&SDG ACTIVITIES SINCE COUNCIL 2018 | |

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the 33rd Meeting of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG held on the 30th and 31st January in line with [PP‑18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf)) and [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016).](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en)  Action required  The Council is invited to **take note** of the work of the CWG on WSIS&SDG and also to **consider** the recommendations in the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  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); UNGA Resolution [A/RES/73/218](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218); [UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2018/28](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2018/28);[PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.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, 31st,32nd 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**

Since ITU Council 2018, the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG held one meeting. The CWG-WSIS&SDG held its 33rd meeting, the first after PP-18, on the 30th and 31st of January 2019 in Geneva with Prof. Vladimir Minkin as Chairman. The full report of the 33rd meeting can be accessed at the following link:

[https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0017](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0017/en)

Council delegates should refer to this report for an expansion of the various views expressed during the discussions.

1. The group considered 16 documents under the agenda ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-33/1(Rev.1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0001/en)) and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to this meeting and made the following recommendations:
   1. **Proposals to modify and update Council Resolution 1332**

**Proposal by Russian Federation (**document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-33-10](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0010/en)) on the modification for Council Resolution 1332 (modified 2016)

* + 1. The group appreciated the modifications submitted by the Russian Federation.
    2. The group was invited to submit their comments and proposals to the modification for Resolution 1332 towards the preparations of the Council 2019.
  1. ITU Contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes (2018 Report), taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
     1. The group appreciated the document and encouraged the Secretariat to streamline the reporting on ITU’s role in the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  2. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6
     1. Secretariat was requested to align and update the roadmaps in accordance to the outcomes of the PP-18 and present them to ITU Council 2019.
  3. WSIS Forum 2019
     1. Membership appreciated all efforts made and updates received towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2019.
     2. Secretariat was encouraged :
        1. to explore possibilities of providing interpretation and translation in 6 UN languages in collaboration with the co-organizers and WSIS Stakeholders, including machine translations and captioning.Partnerships with universities and civil society organizations was encouraged in this regard.
        2. to work in collaboration with the UN Regional Commission and other regional organizations to hold regional WSIS reviews, exploring the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs in the Regions. These could serve as a platform to asses and review national implementation of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
        3. to use the WSIS Forum 2020 as a platform to track the achievements of WSIS Action Lines in collaboration with the UN Agencies involved and provide information and analyses of the implementation of WSIS Action Lines since 2005 (WSIS+15).
        4. to plan the celebration of 15 years of establishment of the WSIS process at the WSIS Forum 2020 at the highest level.
        5. to submit the outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2019 to the High-Level Political Forum 2019.
        6. to work closely with the ITU regional offices while building the agenda and the programme of the annual WSIS Forums.
        7. to provide information related to ITU activities at the WSIS Forum, including how ITU-related activities are helping implement WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
        8. to work in close collaborations with relevant organizations like ICANN, to further consider topics and continue discussing topics such as data protection, new gTLD subsequent round, use of Geographic name in top level and protection of IGO and INGO identifiers in all gTLDs.
     3. Membership is encouraged:
        1. to attend and participate in the WSIS Forum 2019, to be held from 8 to 12 April, with the **title “Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”,** at the highest level possible contributing towards the high-level track, while emphasising on the crucial role of ICTs/WSIS Action Lines in achieving the SDGs;
        2. to identify universities and groups of young coders to participate in the hackathon entitled “Hacking Solutions for Lifelong Learning and Livelihoods” to be held during WSIS Forum 2019 and if possible, to sponsor their participation in the hackathon;
        3. to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust to defray the operational costs of organizing the WSIS Forum, including interpretation, taking into consideration the partnership packages proposed by the Secretariat.
  4. Regional Activities towards implementation of WSIS Outcomes
     1. Secretariat is requested to prepare a proposal for strengthening the process of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in collaboration with 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), 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. exploring strategies for collaboration with UN Development Assistance Frameworks, implementation of interagency, and multistakeholder projects, strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Stocktaking;
        4. in line with [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf)), ensuring that regional offices continue supporting organization of the WSIS Forum as well as WSIS stocktaking and prizes. Also ensuring that ITU regional offices use effectively WSIS Forum to strengthen their coordination with UN partners, including economic commissions and other stakeholders as well as proactively contributing to sessions focusing on regional implementation;
        5. membership is invited to participate in the regional events organized by ITU and regional organizations on WSIS and SDGs;
        6. Secretariat, in close collaboration with membership and other stakeholders is invited to promote regional WSIS+15 Forums in 2020 and is also invited to consider possibilities to coordinate regional WSIS Forums in the Regional Development Forums.
  5. 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.
  6. WSIS Stocktaking
     1. The Group appreciated all developments and reports provided regarding the WSIS Stocktaking Database.
     2. Secretariat was requested:-
        1. to collect inputs from membership on the impact of the projects submitted to the WSIS Stocktaking Database and report to the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting
        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 2019 on WSIS Stocktaking process and to present the summary to the next CWG-WSIS&SDG.
        4. to work closely with the BDT Study Groups to strengthen the mapping table linking the WSIS action lines, SDGs and study group questions.
        5. to raise awareness about the WSIS Stocktaking Reports and database.
     3. Member States were invited to utilize the Stocktaking database and reports and also to inform the Secretariat about the impact and usage.
     4. The Group was invited to submit and share regional initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking database.
  7. WSIS Prizes 2019
     1. Membership appreciated a new record of the submission of more than 1000 projects to the contest of WSIS Prizes 2019.
     2. Membership was encouraged to promote participation of stakeholders in the Voting Process.
     3. Secretariat was requested to make an extra effort to promote the WSIS Prize winners, including a special session for former WSIS Prizes Winners and Champions at the WSIS Forum 2019.
  8. UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)
     1. Secretariat was requested to work closely with UNGIS members for interpretation and translation matters for the WSIS Forum.
     2. Secretariat was requested to consult with the UNGIS members with a view to ensure the effective implementation of WSIS Action lines and participate in the WSIS follow-up and review process, as appropriate.
  9. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2019
     1. Secretariat was invited to consider creating linkages with the Girls in ICT Day, taking place on fourth Thursday each April.
     2. The Group was invited to also consider and share the theme for WTISD 2020 which would be eventually presented to the Council for consideration.
  10. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development
      1. The meeting took note and engaged in discussion on how we can improve the process within existing resources.
      2. Membership was invited to better respond with relevant data at national and regional levels.
      3. The Secretariat was invited to provide guidelines and recommendations to Administrations on actions that can be taken to improve the validity and accuracy of their data pertaining to ICT Development Index (IDI), as well as on specific steps for enhancing and improving their development and use of ICT infrastructure and services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  11. 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 2019 partnership package presented by the Secretariat. Confirmed partners of WSIS Forum 2019 were thanked and acknowledged, including Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Poland, Oman, Switzerland, ICANN, IEEE and IFIP.
  12. ITU **Sector Study Groups for the WSIS&SDGs Process**
      1. Rapporteursof the study group are requested to utilize the information contained in the reports submitted by the WSIS Secretariat and Stocktaking database.
  13. **Proposal by Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia introduced their document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-33-11](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0011/en) and suggested that the ITU secretariat work together with the relevant UN entities to establish a special track for “WSIS&SDGs” and to organize sessions aimed at highlighting the achievements in this regards.

* + 1. The Group supported the proposal and thanked Saudi Arabia for the document.
    2. Secretariat was encouraged to organize a special session on ICTs for SDGs during the WSIS Forum 2019, focusing on the SDGs that are closest to ITUs areas of work.

1. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** 
   1. **ITU Activities towards High-Level Political Forum 2019** 
      1. The group considered document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-33/15 Rev.1](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0015/en) and provided comments. The group agreed on the draft text. The draft will be made available on the CWG-WSIS&SDG website for comments with a deadline of 15th February. The document with the inclusion of the text with comments will be sent to the Chairman of the ITU Council 2019 for submission to the HLPF 2019.
      2. The group requests secretariat to reconsider section B and invited membership to give concrete proposals. The group was also invited to provide proposals concerning section E of the document to the next meeting for discussion, if any.
      3. The group had a discussion on ITUs four year report to HLPF under the auspices of UNGA in September 2019.Though at present there is no procedure specified for the preparation of the four year report, the group proposed that the Secretariat with the CWG-WSIS&SDG management team should provide a compilation of the reports of the annual HLPFs in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.
      4. The ITU Council Contribution to the 2019 HLPF document was managed by the management team of the CWG-WSIS&SDG based on the comments received. (**Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-33/15 (Rev.3).**
      5. The report was submitted to the ITU Council 2019 Chairman to follow the requests and procedure from UNGA for the formal submission of the report.
   2. **Update on the Roadmap on SDGs** ([CWG-WSIS-33-08](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CWGWSIS33-C-0008/en)): Membership appreciated all efforts made and updates provided on ITUs Roadmap on SDGs.
   3. The group recalled that according to the decision of ITU Council, Secretariat documents shall be posted 30 days in advance.
2. **Next meeting**

**4.1** The schedule of the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting will therefore be decided after Council 2019.

1. **Closing remarks**

In closing, the Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU Membership who participated in the work of the 33rd meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG and thanked the nominated Vice-Chairs, Ms Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Mr Cai Guolei (China) and Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Rep. of Iran) **f**or their presence in the meeting and all who contributed to the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG and WSIS Process. Appreciations were expressed towards Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary General, ITU and Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin, Director of BDT. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by Secretariat, especially Mr Catalin Marinescu, Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr Vladimir Stankovic, Mr Michael Kioy, Mr Mario Castro Grande and Ms Esperanza Magpantay.