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| **Council 2019 Geneva, 10-20 June 2019** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 17** | **Document C19/38-E** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) “STRATEGY FOR THE COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AMONG  THE THREE SECTORS OF THE UNION” | |

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| Summary  This document presents a report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 191 (Rev. Busan, 2014)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-191-E.pdf) |

## 1 Background

* 1. The 2018 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-18) revised Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the “Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union”.
  2. The Resolution *instructs* the Secretary-General to continue enhancing a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources of the Union.
  3. Furthermore, it *instructs* the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to ensure reporting to the Council of the coordination activities carried out among the different Sectors in each area identified as being of mutual interest, as well as the results obtained.
  4. It also *instructs* the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to identify all forms and examples of overlapping functions and activities between ITU Sectors as well as the General Secretariat, and propose solutions to address them.

## Coordination within the secretariat

**Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF)**

* 1. The Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) was established to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoid internal duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. The Terms of Reference of the ISC-TF were specified in [Service Order No. 16/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0019/en).
  2. The ISC-TF held six meetings (plus one to be held in May) since its previous report to the Council in April 2018, and 29 in total since its inception in March 2015. The ISC-TF is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, with the participation of: *a)* the Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux and the Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department; *b)* the Inter-sectoral Focal Points responsible for specific thematic areas; *c)* the Regional Directors; *d)* the Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat; *e)* as an observer, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, and *f)* at the invitation of the Chairman, the Chiefs of Departments of the Bureaux.
  3. The areas of inter-sectoral interest coordinated by ISC-TF include the topics of Accessibility, Artificial Intelligence, Bridging the Standards Gap, Communications and Web Editorial, Emerging Trends, Emergency Telecommunications, Environment and Smart Sustainable Cities, Events Coordination, Gender, Membership, Resource Mobilization, and SMEs. Since the session of Council in April 2018, the group:
* facilitated the exchange of information among the Sectors and the General Secretariat on the above-mentioned thematic areas by updating the members of the group on the developments and the progress achieved in each area;
* discussed and proposed solutions for the key issues raised by the focal points, escalating the issues if decisions could not be taken or resolved at the focal point level;
* leveraged the participation and contribution of the Regional Offices, which have been participating through remote participation to the ISC-TF discussions;
* continued the process of publishing and updating information on ITU’s work on the thematic areas on the relevant ITU webpages, in an open and transparent way;
* coordinated ITU’s participation in conferences and fora with the aim to rationalize ITU’s delegation/presence whilst ensuring inter-sectoral interests are represented; and
* facilitated better coordination of organization of ITU events and meetings, through the work carried out in that particular area.
  1. In addition, the group achieved the following specific outcomes since the previous ordinary session of the Council:
* developed a new webpage on inter-sectoral coordination ([www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx)), in coordination with the Chair of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCG);
* discussed the proposed ITU sponsorship guidelines and the provisions of the corresponding Service Order;
* discussed the issue of gender balance in the ITU statutory committees and coordinated the required follow-up;
* oversaw the implementation of the pilot project on the participation of SMEs in the work of the Union through their participation at the ITU-T and ITU-D Study Groups;
* coordinated the participation of the ITU secretariat at the COP-24 conference;
* reviewed the development of the digital content and engagement strategy;
* continued reviewing the detailed reporting on the status of Sector Membership by Sector and Region;
* reviewed the risk management analysis to be included in the ITU operational plans; and
* reviewed the JIU programme of work for 2019, assigning the respective ITU focal points.

**Process to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination in ITU**

* 1. In addition, and as a follow-up to the outcomes of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, the group initiated a review of the existing inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, to ensure the implementation of the new Inter-sectoral Objective I.6, as agreed by membership in the ITU Strategic Plan 2020-2023 (the table below presents the objective, the expected outcomes and the outputs to be delivered).

**Table 1: New Inter-Sectoral Objective on reducing overlap and duplication**

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| **I.6 (Reducing overlap and duplication)** Reduce the areas of overlap and duplication and foster closer and more transparent coordination among General Secretariat and ITU Sectors, taking into account the Union’s budgetary provisions and the expertise and mandate of each Sector | |
| *Outcomes* | *Outputs* |
| I.6-a: Closer and more transparent collaboration among the ITU Sectors, the General Secretariat and the 3 Bureaux  I.6-b: Reducing the areas of overlap and duplication among the ITU Sectors and the work of the General Secretariat and the 3 Bureaux  I.6-c: Realise savings through avoidance of areas of overlap | I.6-1: **Process** to identify and eliminate all forms and instances of duplication of functions and activities between all ITU structural bodies, optimizing, inter alia, **management methods**, logistics, **coordination** and support by the Secretariat  I.6-2: Implement the concept of ‘One ITU’, harmonizing, to the extent feasible, **procedures** across Sectors and regional offices/regional presence in the implementation of goals and objectives of the ITU and Sectors |

* 1. The group will review the coordination and cooperation strategy; review the mechanism of identifying and defining the areas of mutual interest; and revisit its methods of work, in order to reinforce its role and improve its effectiveness.

## Membership coordination

* 1. ISCG was established jointly by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).
  2. Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference invited RAG, TSAG, and TDAG to continue to assist ISCG in identifying subjects common and mechanisms to enhance cooperation and collaboration on matters of mutual interest.
  3. Since its creation, ISCG has held six meetings in conjunction with TDAG meetings. At its meeting on 4 April 2019, ISCG updated the ToR to include General Secretariat in the scope of work. ISCG reviewed and approved the mappings of common interest areas of work between ITU-D and ITU-R study groups, in addition to, between ITU-D and ITU-T study groups and between ITU-R and ITU-T study groups. ISCG also reviewed the mapping of resolutions of PP, RA, WTSA and WTDC.

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