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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM | |

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| Summary  This report presents an overview of ITU’s activities and relationship with the UN system since Council 2018.  Action required  This report is transmitted to the Council for information.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  Documents [C08/INF/8](http://www.itu.int/md/S08-CL-INF-0008/en), [C11/INF/6](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-INF-0006/en), [C12/INF/1(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-CL-INF-0001/en), [C13/INF/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0010/en), [C14/INF/7](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-INF-0007/en), [C15/INF/4](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-INF-0004/en), [C16/57](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0057/en), and [C17/INF/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0010/en), [C18/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0004/en) |

1. **Introduction**

1.1 As a United Nations (UN) Specialized Agency, ITU collaborates, participates, and interacts with the UN system governance processes, subsidiary mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination networks, as well as through joint initiatives. This work aims to strengthen synergies and foster greater cooperation, information and knowledge sharing in order to fulfil programmatic, operational and management mandates in a more coherent and coordinated manner. The ITU General Secretariat, assisted by its UN Liaison Office in New York, coordinates ITU’s relations with the UN and ensures that its priorities are strengthened and reflected in UN system-wide related work, outputs and agenda setting. Over recent years, these efforts have resulted in greater priority and recognition being given to the critical role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) for economic, social, and environmental sustainable development. See ITU Council reports [C11/INF/6](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-INF-0006/en), [C12/INF/1(Rev.1)](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-CL-INF-0001/en), [C13/INF/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0010/en), [C14/INF/7](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-INF-0007/en), [C15/INF/4](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-INF-0004/en), [C16/57](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0057/en), [C17/INF/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0010/en), and [C18/INF/4-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0004/en) for more information.

1. **The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

2.1 ITU continued to follow, participate, and provide inputs to the global follow-up and review process of Agenda 2010 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) carried out annually at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), by means of an ITU Council contribution. ITU has also enhanced its outreach with countries presenting their voluntary national review reports (VNR) to raise the visibility of the critical role of ICTs as an enabling tool for achieving and accelerating progress for sustainable development. Out of the 46 countries that presented their VNR’s, 44 countries referenced connectivity, ICTs and/or underlined the opportunities of the digital revolution in their reports.

2.2 The 2018 HLPF Ministerial Declaration adopted at the end of HLPF and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment, “embrace(s) innovation-driven development, digitalization and new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in managing cities more effectively and holistically, including intelligent and resource efficient transport systems and new efficiencies in energy consumption and waste management…”, while recognizing that “a substantial digital divide persists, both between and within countries and between women and men, and between girls and boys”.

2.3 ITU also engaged with UN system entities and other stakeholders through the organization and participation in side events, workshops and other advocacy opportunities to promote ITU’s work and ICTs for the SDGs.

**3. UN Governance and subsidiary mechanisms**

3.1 ITU continued to follow and provide input to UN’s processes, such as meetings of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), ECOSOC, and its subsidiary bodies, in particular, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Commission on Sustainable Development and the Statistical Commission, as well as the meetings of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), among others.

3.2 In this respect, ITU ensured that key ITU activities and the important role of ICTs for sustainable development are reflected in relevant UN Secretary-General reports and UNGA, ECOSOC/CSTD resolutions, among these, [UNGA resolution on Information and Communications Technologies for Development](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218), [Impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/17) and ECOSOC/CSTD resolutions on the role of [Science, Technology and Innovation for Development](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/e_res_2018_29_en.pdf) and the resolution on the [Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/E_res_2018_28_en.pdf).

**4. UN Summits and Conferences**

During this period, ITU was present in major United Nations conferences and high-level meetings, including: World Health Assembly (May 2018), the Third Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals - STI Forum (June 2018), UNCTAD E-Commerce week; Climate Change Conference - COP 24 (December 2018); Internet Governance Forum (December 2018); among others.

**5. Inter-agency Coordination**

ITU contributed actively to the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its subsidiary mechanisms, the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). During this period, ITU leads within the HLCP the work stream on artificial intelligence, facilitating a UN system-wide strategic approach and roadmap for supporting capacity development developing countries, and contributes to the agenda items on the Future of Work, Future of Learning and Education and Sustainable Urban Development. ITU also continues to participate actively in the work of various thematic and administrative inter-agency mechanisms and networks. In this regard, ITU chairs the Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development, and co-chaired the UN Strategic Planning Network (UNSPN) and the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS).

**6. Key initiatives with other UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies**

ITU continued to strengthen its relationship with UN organizations through joint initiatives promoting ICTs as enabling tools for sustainable development. Key new and ongoing initiatives include the following:

* Annual AI for Good Global Summit led by ITU, in partnership with UN sister agencies (2nd edition held on 15-17 May 2018, in partnership with XPRIZE Foundation, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and 32 sister United Nations agencies and bodies. For further information See section T.5-1);
* AI for Good UN Partners Meeting and compendium report “UN Activities on Artificial” released in October 2018,on who does what in the AI field in the UN system;
* B-Healthy B-Mobile WHO/ITU joint programme;
* Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development led by ITU and UNESCO, with membership from six other UN entities;
* Decent Jobs for Youth Campaign led by ILO and ITU (ITU is leading the digital skills thematic priority of Decent Jobs for Youth, the global initiative to scale up action and impact on youth employment under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development);
* EQUALS: The Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age implemented by ITU, UN Women, UNESCO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNU-CS, GSMA;
* Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) by ITU and World Bank supported by other partners and foundation;
* Global E-Waste Monitor 2017, in partnership with the United Nations University, and the International Solid Waste Association;
* Innovation for digital transformation by ITU and UNIDO particularly on SDG 9;
* ITU/WMO/UNESCO-IOC Joint Task Force on SMART Cable Systems (This task force is leading an ambitious new project to equip submarine communications cables with climate monitoring and disaster warning sensors);
* Mobile Learning Week (MLW), organized by UNESCO in partnership with ITU and supported by other partners;
* Symposium on the Future Networked Car within the Geneva International Motor Show (Annual ITU-UNECE event which brings together key players in the ICT and automotive industries to present their latest intelligent-transport innovations);
* United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC): is coordinated by ITU and UNECE and supported by CBD, ECLAC, FAO, ITU, UNDP, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCO, UN Environment, UNEP-FI, UNFCCC, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNU-EGOV, UN-Women and WMO. U4SSC serves as a global platform to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”;
* ITU/World Bank Joint Declaration to enhance cooperation for the advancement of the 2030Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**7. Collaboration with the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations system (JIU)**

Through the Inter Sectoral Coordination – Task Force (ISC-TF), ITU reviewed reports from the JIU’s 2017 and 2018 UN system-wide reports, including the corresponding recommendations and CEB comments can be obtained from the JIU website: <https://www.unjiu.org/content/reports-notes>.

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