|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2020 Geneva, 9-19 June 2020** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: ADM 38** | **Document C20/38-E** |
| **29 April 2020** |
| **Original: English** |
| 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” | |

|  |
| --- |
| 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. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-191-E.pdf) |

## 1 Introduction

* 1. Following the revision of Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) on the “Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union”, regular reporting on inter-sectoral coordination has been provided to the Council, the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), as well as all three Sector advisory groups. Mechanisms and efforts to continue to improve inter-sectoral coordination were further enhanced, and closer coordination between the secretariat’s Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) and the membership’s Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) was accomplished.

## Coordination within the secretariat

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

* 1. The Inter-Sectoral 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 five meetings (plus one to be held before Council 2020) since its previous report to the Council in April 2019, and 33 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, Geospatial activities (since 2019), Membership, Resource Mobilization, and SMEs. Since the 2019 Session of Council, the group continued to:
* facilitate 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;
* discuss and propose 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;
* leverage the participation and contribution of the Regional Offices, which have been participating through remote participation to the ISC-TF discussions;
* coordinate 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;
* coordinate ITU’s participation in conferences and fora with the aim to rationalize ITU’s delegation/presence whilst ensuring inter-sectoral interests are represented; and
* facilitate better coordination in the organization of ITU events and meetings, through the work carried out in that particular area.
  1. In addition, the group achieved the following outcomes during the year:
* *Inter-sectoral coordination strategy*: the secretariat continued the efforts in this area, presenting further improvements to the current model, focusing more on the common thematic areas of work. As a result, the ITU Annual Report (Doc. C20/35) is structured around “themes”/areas of work, while in coordination with the ISCG membership, some “pilot themes” were identified where all actors could be involved in identifying methods of improved collaboration (related information is presented on the Section on ISCG below).
* *Webpage and consolidated information on Inter-sectoral coordination*: the group consolidated all information on inter-sectoral activities under the common [Webpage on Inter-Sectoral Coordination](http://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx), in collaboration with the Chair of the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group on Issues of Mutual Interest (ISCG).
* *Strengthening ITU risk management framework*: a self-assessment for ITU against the UN Risk Maturity Model developed by the UN High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) was conducted, and the results, as well as the proposed Action Plan to strengthen the ITU Risk Management framework were presented to the CWG-FHR. [Document C20/61](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0061/en) reports on the implementation of the risk management Action Plan.
* *Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU)*: the group reviewed and endorsed acceptance and implementation status, where appropriate, of recommendations in JIU system-wide reports published in 2019. The group also noted the JIU’s *Programme of Work for 2020* and designated the respective ITU focal points for each of the system-wide thematic reviews;
* *Membership reporting*: the group reviewed the detailed reporting on the status of Membership by Sector and Region;
* *Participation of SMEs in the work of the Union*: the group continued assessing the participation of SMEs;
* *ITU Focal Points in UN system coordination mechanisms*: the group reviewed the list of focal points and ITU’s participation in the different UN-wide coordination mechanisms;
* *Mechanisms on inter-sectoral coordination in response to CoVid-19*: ISC-TF agreed on two new mechanisms created on CoVid-related inter-sectoral coordination: *a)* an Inter-sectoral group on CoVid-related activities, the “ITU-CoVid response team”, and *b)* an Inter-sectoral group on coordination for virtual meetings and remote participation for the upcoming ITU events.

## Membership coordination

* 1. The [Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx) on issues of mutual interest was established jointly by the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG), the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), and the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG).
  2. ISCG identifies subjects common to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or, bilaterally, and considers an updated list (prepared by the secretariat) containing areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat pursuant to the mandates assigned by each ITU assembly or conference. ISCG also identifies the necessary mechanisms to strengthen cooperation and joint activity among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, or with each Sector, on issues of mutual interest.

**ISCG meeting during TSAG in September 2019**

* 1. ISCG last met on 25 September 2019 during the TSAG meeting (Geneva, 23-27 September 2019). The secretariat presented a list of possible areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat; a mapping of resolutions from PP, RA, WTSA and WTDC; and mappings of common interest areas of work among ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D study groups. The inputs from the Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force were also presented, including concrete examples of improved coordination since the creation of the task force.
  2. At the time of reporting, and given the current working arrangement at ITU, options are being considered for holding a virtual meeting of the ISCG.

**Climate change as a pilot theme**

* 1. ISCG discussed the idea of identifying “pilot themes” for inter-sectoral coordination, where all actors (including Sector advisory groups, ITU-R, ITU-T and ITU-D study groups, study group counsellors and the secretariat) would be involved in identifying methods of improved collaboration, aimed at avoiding duplication of work and proposing the way forward.
  2. ISCG decided on “Climate change” as a pilot theme, where all Sectors could be involved and could collaborate. Since the ISCG September meeting, the secretariat has worked on identifying common areas of interest within the scope of climate change. The secretariat started by looking at Resolution 182 (Rev. Busan, 2014) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of telecommunications/information and communication technologies in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment, and has identified a list of sub-topics, where there could be joint activities either among all Sectors, or bilaterally. A mapping of all the activities and events related to climate change was presented in the report submitted to the TSAG meeting in February 2020, as well as the work carried out by the ISC-TF on Environment and Smart Sustainable Cities & Communities. Under the leadership of ITU DSG, a new corporate portal gathering information on activities carried out by the three Sectors and the General secretariat was created and is available at: www.itu.int/climate. Discussions on the way forward on inter-sectoral coordination and specific themes are expected to take place during the next ISCG meeting (at the time of reporting, dates and options for hosting the meeting are being considered).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_