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| **English only** |
| Note by the Secretary-General  |
| ITU ENVIRONMENTAL sUSTAINABILITY sTATEMENT |

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| SummaryIn 2019, the Chief Executives Board endorsed the first phase of the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030, outlining goals for strengthening environmental sustainability management in the UN’s facilities and operations and calling among others for the establishment of entity specific environmental governance frameworks.In this context, this document presents the ITU Environmental Sustainability Statement issued on 8 January 2020. Action requiredThis report is transmitted to the Council **for information**.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/INF_3_Strategy-for-Sustainability-Management-in-the-UN-System.pdf) |

**ITU Environmental Sustainability Statement**

In December 2018, the UN Secretary-General asked the UN to raise the level of its internal ambitions and to intensify its efforts to combat climate change from within. The Environmental Management Group and the UN Environment Programme have been tasked with responding to this call and have proposed a Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030. ITU Decisions and Resolutions[[1]](#footnote-1) from Governing Bodies are also increasingly calling for planet-friendly decisions.

With the purpose of protecting the planet through continuous improvement of our environmental performance and systematic integration of environmental sustainability across our organization, this statement commits ITU including all its staff, to the following guiding principles:

* retaining our worldwide climate neutrality while advancing our environmental performance by reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing consumption of resources, and protecting biodiversity;
* embedding environmental sustainability as a cross-cutting consideration to be fully integrated into our internal practices (mainstreamed across Facilities, Procurement, Travel, IT, Events & Meetings, Training), as well as into external programmes;
* ensuring that ITU service delivery, business continuity and disaster recovery solutions minimise environmental impact and develop positive effects;
* encouraging an open dialogue with all our stakeholders on environmental awareness and improvement of the environmental performance of the ITU ecosystem, ensuring that ITU staff are actively encouraged to contribute;
* ensuring that the financial, human and other resources needed for improving our environmental performance are prioritized;
* collaborating with host countries where ITU operates to achieve good environmental performance, including at ITU events;
* sharing methods, procedures, and approaches with other organizations within and outside the UN system to inspire others and to learn from best practices; and
* establishing an appropriate Environmental Management System along UN guidelines as well as monitoring and reporting on sustainability performance annually with the aim of ensuring transparency and continuous improvement.

The above principles will be guided by UN commitments and best practices (including the Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-2030) and, where appropriate, benefit from ITU recommendations and other relevant standards.

Sustainability management enables ITU to address and manage risks: to the natural environments in which it operates, to the health of its staff, to the livelihoods of the people it serves and ultimately to the credibility and reputation of the Organization. While dedicated human and financial resources may be needed in the future, sustainability management brings about opportunities to generate benefits such as efficiencies in the use of natural resources and finances.

The first step towards the implementation of the Environmental Management System (EMS) is the creation of an Environmental Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and composed of representatives of all General Secretariat Departments and all Bureaux. The Steering Committee plays a major role in the design and monitoring of the EMS and determines the need and composition of EMS working groups.

1. Annex 2 to PP Decision 5 (Rev. Dubai 2018), Resolution 167 (rev. Dubai, 2018), Resolution 32 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 73 (Rev. Hammamet, 2016), Resolution 66 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017), Resolution 81 (Buenos Aires, 2017) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)