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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C21/8-E** |
| **18 February 2021** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society and Sustainable Development Goals (CWG-WSIS&SDG) | |
| REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CWG-WSIS&SDG ACTIVITIES SINCE COUNCIL-20 | |

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| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the 36th meeting of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG). The 36th meeting was held virtually on 28-29 January 2021, 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 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en).  **Action required**  The Council is invited to **endorse** 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/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); [UNGA Resolution A/71/212](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212); [UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2020/212](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2020/12); [UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2020/12](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2020/12); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/202](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/379/41/PDF/N2037941.pdf?OpenElement); [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution-140-PP18.pdf); [PP-14 Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan 2014)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf); [PP-10 Resolution 172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf); [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/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, 33rd, 34th, 35th , 36th CWG WSIS meetings*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*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/en/itu-wsis/Documents/WSIS+10Report.pdf)*.* |

1. **Introduction**
   1. Since Council-20, the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) held one meeting. The 36th meeting was held virtually on 28-29 January 2021 due to the exceptional COVID-19 situation. The meeting considered 20 documents. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), Chairman of the CWG-WSIS&SDG. The 36th meeting was attended by Vice-Chairs, Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Ms Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Prof. Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), and Ms Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan).
   2. This document provides a series of recommendations developed by CWG-WSIS&SDG to Council-21. Summary Report of the 36th meeting is available as document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-36-20](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0020/en) on the [CWG-WSIS&SDG website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx).
2. **Update relevant activities related to the WSIS process and SDGs**
   1. The following documents and oral presentations were considered at the 36th meeting of the CWG-WSIS&SDG:
      1. Outcomes of the CSTD 2020 and Inter-sessional panel 2021 (*oral presentation*)
      2. Outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum 2020 (*oral presentation*)
      3. [E/RES/2020/12](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2020/12): Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
      4. [A/RES/75/202](http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/LatestUnDocuments-GeneralAssemblyDocuments/~3/OCFXXkm8CdE/202?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email): UNGA Resolution on ICT for Sustainable Development
      5. Update on the UN Secretary-General Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (*oral presentation*)
3. **ITU’s activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation, and follow-up, including activities according to the ITU Operational Plans**
   1. The following documents were considered at the 36th meetings of the CWG-WSIS&SDG:
      1. Outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2020 ([CWGWSIS36/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0002/en))
      2. WSIS Forum 2021 (preparations) ([CWGWSIS36/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0003/en))
      3. Report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (2020) ([CWGWSIS36/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0004/en))
      4. ITU Roadmaps C2, C5 and C6 (updated template) ([CWGWSIS36/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0005/en))
      5. Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes ([CWGWSIS36/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0006/en))
      6. Template for reporting on regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes ([CWGWSIS36/17)](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0017/en)
      7. WSIS Stocktaking Process 2020 and 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0007/en))
      8. WSIS Prizes 2020 and 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0008/en))
      9. UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) ([CWGWSIS36/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0009/en))
      10. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020 and 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0010/en))
      11. Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development ([CWGWSIS36/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0011/en))
      12. WSIS Fund in Trust 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/12](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0012/en))
      13. ITU Sector Study Group activities related to the WSIS and SDG Process ([CWGWSIS36/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0013/en))
   2. Building upon the outcomes of the contributions provided to the 36th meeting, the Group took note of all documents with appreciation and made the following **observations and recommendations** to **Council-21:**
      1. **Outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2020**
4. The Group appreciated all efforts made towards the success of the WSIS Forum 2020 and its outcomes and especially emphasized transition from a physical event to a virtual one that resulted in new opportunities, use of innovative virtual tools and increased participation, including from developing countries, in spite of difficulties caused by the pandemic.
5. The outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2020 in terms of increased participation, partnerships, innovative virtual format, agenda, programme and reports/publications were appreciated.
6. The Group appreciated the work of the secretariat with the WSIS Action Line facilitators, in particular the facilitators of the WSIS Action Lines C2, C5 and C6, to include the fifteen-year achievements of the implementation (2005-2020), challenges and opportunities in the Action Line Workshops organized at the WSIS Forum 2020.
7. The Group encouraged new successful initiatives like the ICTs and Older Persons track and the new impactful partnerships created as a result of the track.
8. The Group appreciated the commitment and support of the contributors to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2020.
   * 1. **WSIS Forum 2021 (preparations)**
9. The Group noted:
   1. all updates on the calls for action received towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2021;
   2. the deadline to contribute to the Open Consultation Process, including request for workshops/exhibition spaces and speakers is 8 March 2021.
10. The secretariat was encouraged to continue strengthening the alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs in the agenda, programme, and outcomes of the WSIS Forum 2021.
11. The secretariat was requested to explore additional new online tools to facilitate interaction, networking, and collaboration amongst the participants.
12. ITU Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Forum 2021.
    * 1. **Report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (2020)**
13. The 2020 report on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes was noted and appreciated by all stakeholders.
14. The Group appreciated updates provided by the secretariat on the WSIS+15 Report prepared in collaboration with all UN agencies facilitating the WSIS Action Lines, also noting that the activities reflected in the report were presented during the WSIS Action Lines Facilitators meeting at the WSIS Forum 2020. The secretariat was requested to publish the report for information and discussion in the next meeting.
15. The Group encouraged the secretariat to work closely with BDT, TSB, BR, and the General Secretariat to input ITU activities and projects reflected in the Report to the WSIS Stocktaking Platform for the benefit of wider WSIS stakeholder community.
16. The Group invited TSB and BDT to present the draft Report on implementation of the WSIS Outcomes by ITU-T and ITU-D, prepared in close collaboration with the WSIS secretariat and in accordance with the relevant resolutions, intended for consideration at WTSA-20 and WTDC-21 as an input to the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting, taking into account the revised template for ITU Roadmaps C2, C5, and C6 in paragraph 7.4.1.
17. The Group appreciated the information document ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-36/ INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-INF-0002/en)) presented by the Vice-Chair of CWG WSIS&SDG, Ms Aygun Ahmadova and requested the secretariat to rectify hyperlinks to some of the documents and web links listed in the report.
    * 1. **ITU Roadmaps C2, C5 and C6 (updated template)**
18. The Group endorsed the revised template for ITU Roadmaps C2, C5, and C6 and recommended to use them for analysing the implementation and achieved results of the WSIS outcomes for the Action Lines C2, C5, and C6.
    * 1. **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes**
19. The Group encouraged the secretariat to continue working closely with the ITU Regional Offices and UN Regional Commissions, as well as to explore collaboration with the regional telecommunication organizations and to submit to CWG-WSIS&SDG regional reports of implementation of WSIS outcomes and achieving SDGs with special reflection of the role of ICTs in mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic.
20. The Group endorsed the template presented for reporting on regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes, which is to be used by the Vice-Chairs of the regions to report on their contributions to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
    * 1. **WSIS Stocktaking Process 2020 and 2021**
21. The Group appreciated all efforts made and updates on the calls for submission received for the global WSIS Stocktaking Report 2021 and for the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – ICT Case Repository.
22. ITU Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Stocktaking activities and contribute by sharing good practices in responding to COVID-19 pandemic.
23. The Group invited the secretariat to use the WSIS Stocktaking platform to streamline and collect updated information from all three ITU sectors and the General Secretariat on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.
24. The secretariat was requested to further explore opportunities to enhance the Stocktaking database in collecting the projects from the ground related to the ongoing call for the coronavirus response – ICT Case Repository - under the framework of the WSIS Action Lines and its linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals.
25. The secretariat was also requested to promote the collected submissions to the WSIS Stocktaking: COVID-19 ICT Case Repository, and their linkages with the WSIS Action Lines, in various formats, including the virtual WSIS TalkX, dedicated WSIS Forum 2021 sessions, visual presentations, and publications.
    * 1. **WSIS Prizes 2020 and 2021**
26. The Group appreciated all efforts made and updates on the calls for submission received for the WSIS Prizes 2021 and noted that the deadline to contribute is extended until 1 February 2021.
27. The Group appreciated the active participation of the three ITU sectors, including that of the Study Groups, ITU Regional Offices, and others in the WSIS Prizes and good collaboration in sharing databases, projects, and activities. The secretariat was requested to further explore collaboration with other ICT-related databases in ITU and outside as well as to further promote good efforts on a global level made by various ICT for development communities through the WSIS Prizes annual awards.
28. ITU Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Prizes 2021.
29. The secretariat was requested to explore strengthening communication and outreach to further benefit the global recognition of the WSIS Prizes contest and its awardees.
    * 1. **UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**
30. The Group appreciated the good spirit and collaboration of UN Agencies as UNGIS members.
31. The Group appreciated the work of UNGIS including the contributions to the High-level Political Forum 2020 and welcomed the [UNGIS Dialogue on the Role of Digitalization in the Decade of Action](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Content/upload/doc/dialogue2020/dtlstictinf2020d3_en.pdf).
32. The Group expressed its appreciation to WSIS team for redesigning the UNGIS website making it more interactive and user friendly.
    * 1. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2020 and 2021**
33. The secretariat provided updates on the preparations towards the WTISD 2021 and informed that a Circular Letter will be sent shortly containing the Calls to Action for ITU membership, containing information on the dedicated website and details for submitting initiatives from ITU membership.
34. The Group was invited to actively participate in commemorating the theme of WTISD 2021 throughout the year with national, regional, and international initiatives to accelerate digital transformation according to the guidelines that will be provided by ITU.
35. The Group requested the secretariat to post the Calls to Action as soon as possible.
    * 1. **Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development**
36. The Group noted the report on activity of Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development.
37. The Group encouraged the secretariat to organise a workshop at the WSIS Forum 2021 and share the outcomes in the next CWG-WSIS&SDG.
    * 1. **WSIS** Fund in Trust 2021
38. Membership and all WSIS stakeholders were invited to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust and to explore the WSIS Forum 2021 partnership packages presented by the secretariat.
    * 1. **ITU Sector Study Group activities related to the WSIS and SDG Process**
39. The Group appreciated the continuing work between the ITU Sector Study Groups and the WSIS process.
40. Chairman of the ITU-D Study Group 2 informed that ITU-D Study Groups were engaged in the activities of WSIS Forum 2020 by organizing multiple special sessions and webinars on topics of interest, including how ICTs can be utilized to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 (e-Health), as well as being part of the WSIS High-Level track (e-Education). He emphasized that such activities provided enhanced visibility for ITU-D Study Groups, for which the Group was thankful.
41. The Study Groups were encouraged to actively contribute to all activities and calls for action of the WSIS process, including the WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, and WSIS Prizes.
42. **WSIS Activities related to COVID-19 Response**
    1. The document was considered at the 36th meeting of the CWG-WSIS&SDG: [CWGWSIS36/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0014/en)
    2. The Group noted with appreciation the efforts made by the secretariat for providing opportunities for stakeholders to partner and collaborate during COVID-19.
    3. The Group appreciated the work and contributions of WSIS stakeholders to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and stressed the importance of digital connectivity, innovation, and global cooperation for sustainable development in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.
    4. Based on inputs from stakeholders, the secretariat was requested to coordinate an electronic reference toolkit that will assist stakeholders in responding effectively to COVID-19 pandemic, under the framework of the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.
    5. The Group welcomed initiatives by the ITU and others to help stakeholders tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. It noted that the Council Working Group (Internet) would hold a public consultation on “The role of the Internet and international Internet-related public policy in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and possible future pandemics” and invited the secretariat and all WSIS stakeholders to contribute to the consultation to help draw together experience and lessons learned for the future.
43. **Discussion on the Overall Review on the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025**
    1. The secretariat was requested to provide appropriate consultations with the partner UN agencies for implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.
    2. The secretariat was requested to consult with UNGIS members and other stakeholders to celebrate the implementation of 20 years of Geneva Plan of Action at the WSIS Forum 2024.
44. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** 
    1. The following documents were considered at the 36th meeting of the CWG-WSIS&SDG:
       1. Updates: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0015/en))
       2. ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0016/en))
    2. The 36th meeting of the CWG-WSIS&SDG noted the following:
       1. **Updates: High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021**
45. The group noted the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit and will continue to review ITU’s involvement in the process of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in future meetings.
    * 1. **ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021**
46. Noting and responding to the [letter from President of the ECOSOC](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CWGWSIS35-INF-0001/en) requesting ITU Council to provide substantive inputs to the 2021 HLPF on the theme, the Group were invited to consider and endorse the draft input of ITU Council to HLPF to be presented to the Chair of Council to HLPF. The deadline for submission is 15 March 2021.
47. The Group appreciated the document presented by the secretariat.
48. The secretariat was requested to:
    1. provide, in annex as per past practice, additional information on the ITU activities related to SDGs, especially SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 and other relevant activities that focused and build on the expertise of the ITU by the 5th of February and make it available on the CWG WSIS&SDGs website; and
    2. create a correspondence group under the auspices of CWG-WSIS&SDG open for all interested group members for the consideration of the ITU input to HLPF-21 with a target to prepare an agreed text of the draft of the ITU input to HLPF-21 up to 20 February 2021 that shall be posted for comments at the CWG-WSIS&SDG website by the deadline of 1 March 2021. The CWG-WSIS&SDG management team shall consider and combine all comments received and send the consolidated text to the Council Chair by 5 March 2021.
49. **Contribution by the Russian Federation: Proposals for the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG**
    1. The Russian Federation presented the document containing proposals to the draft input of ITU Council Contribution to the HLPF 2021 ([CWGWSIS36/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0018/en)).
    2. The Group supported proposals of the Russian Federation and encouraged the secretariat to follow the guidance in 6.2 section 4 above. Please see the Summary Report of the 36th CWG-WSIS&SDG in section 10 for reference ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-36-20](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0020/en)).
50. **Other business**
    1. There were no other matters raised in the meeting.
51. **Concluding Remarks**
    1. Closing the meeting, the Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU Membership who participated in the work of the 36th meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG and thanked the Vice-Chairs, Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Ms Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Mr Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), Prof. Ahma​d Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan) and especially all who contributed to the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG and WSIS Process. Appreciations were expressed towards Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, ITU, Mr Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, ITU, Dr Chaesub Lee, Director TSB, and Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director BDT. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by Chief of SPM, Mr Yushi Torigoe, Head of CSD Mr Catalin Marinescu and the secretariat Ms Gitanjali Sah, Mr Vladimir Stankovic, Mr Michael Kioy, Ms Ruth Sidabutar, Mr Mario Castro Grande, Mr Martin Schaaper, and Ms Jeoung Hee Kim.
    2. The Group expressed its thanks to Prof. Vladimir Minkin, Chair of the CWG-WSIS&SDG, for his able chairmanship and guidance.

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