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| **Council 2021 Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021** |  |
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| **Agenda item: ADM 19** | **Document C21/38-E** |
| **7 April 2021** |
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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.  This document was originally prepared as [C20/38](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0038/en) for submission to the 2020 session of the Council but was not reviewed.  Action required  The Council is invited **to note** the report as well as document C20/38  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  [*Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-191-E.pdf)*,* [*C20/38*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0038/en), [*C21/INF/11*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0011/en) |

## Introduction

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 intersectoral coordination of activities has been provided to the Council, the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources (CWG-FHR), as well as to all three Sector advisory groups. Mechanisms and efforts to continue to improve intersectoral 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

* 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 six meetings (as of 31 March 2021) since its previous report to Council-20 (at least one additional meeting is expected to be held before the Virtual consultation of councillors, 8-18 June 2021), and 39 in total since its inception in March 2015. The ISC-TF is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General with the participation of the Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux; the Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat; the Inter-sectoral Focal Points responsible for specific thematic areas; the Regional Directors; as an observer, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit; and at the invitation of the Chairman, the Chiefs of Departments of the Bureaux.
  3. The areas of intersectoral interest coordinated by ISC-TF include the following topics: Accessibility, Emerging Trends and Artificial Intelligence, Bridging the Standards Gap, Communications, Community Networks, Emergency Telecommunications, Environment and Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities, Events Coordination, Gender, Geospatial activities, Membership, Resource Mobilization and SMEs, and Multilingualism (since 2020).
  4. Since the last report to Council-20, the task force 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 task force 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 to the ISC-TF discussions;
* coordinate ITU’s participation in conferences and fora with the aim to rationalize ITU’s delegation/presence whilst ensuring intersectoral interests are represented;
* facilitate better coordination in the organization of ITU events and meetings, through the work carried out in that particular area; and
* 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, including consolidated information on intersectoral activities under the common [webpage on Intersectoral Coordination](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/intersectoral-coordination.aspx);
  1. In addition, the group achieved the following outcomes during the year:
* *Inter-sectoral coordination strategy*: the secretariat continued the efforts to further improve the current model by focusing on the common thematic areas of work, as presented in the ITU Annual Report (Document [C21/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0035/en)); as well as to coordinate with the ISCG, by identifying “themes” where all actors could be involved and work together to propose methods of improved collaboration (related information is presented on the Section on ISCG below).
* *Mechanisms on intersectoral coordination in response to COVID-19*:
  + a) Inter-sectoral group on COVID-related activities, the “ITU-COVID response team” continued to work on information sharing and coordination of activities between the three Sectors and the General Secretariat. An extensive section on COVID-19 related activities/responses is included in Document C21/35;
  + b) Inter-sectoral group on coordination for virtual meetings and remote participation had several meetings and developed a comprehensive document: “Virtual Events and Remote Participation - Guidelines and best practices”, including recommendations on which platform to use as a function of the type of ITU meeting;
* *Event website:* the [events portal](https://www.itu.int/en/events/Pages/default.aspx) has been updated, including the optimization of virtual ITU public events;
* *Webpages per theme/area of work:* single pages on [“Environment and climate change”](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/default.aspx) and on [“Emergency Telecommunications”](https://www.itu.int/en/action/emergency/Pages/default.aspx) were updated and keep all relevant information of corresponding activities across the ITU;
* *Accessibility:* the ITU Accessibility Policy is under review, and an Accessibility Strategy and a Workplan for 2021-2022 been developed. Also, a trial on accessibility in relation to virtual meetings will be coordinated within the ISC-TF, based on ITU-T experience;
* *Multilingualism:* this thematic group was established in 2020, and it is working on a matrix of mandates and recommendations drawn up from the different documents following the working recommendations from the UN on multilingualism to produce a detailed action plan, a report was presented to the CWG-Languages in February 2021;
* *Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU):* the task force agreed to submit the JIU Report to the CGW-FHR that reports to Council, and to address the specific recommendations within each of the relevant thematic groups’ discussions;
* *ITU risk management framework*: under the guidance of the ISC-TF, the Action Plan to strengthen the ITU risk management framework was successfully implemented, establishing improved arrangements to assess and oversee internal control mechanisms for more effective supervision, and implementing the related IMAC recommendations and JIU Benchmarks on risk management (details presented in Document [C21/61](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-C-0061/en));
* *ITU Compliance Dashboard:* ITU management decided to set up and develop a corporate compliance dashboard including the recommendations of External Audit, IMAC, JIU and Internal Audit. This tool enables ITU management and oversight bodies (internal audit, external audit and IMAC) to have a clear view of the recommendations in progress, real time information concerning the progress made in implementing the recommendations or in mitigating the residual risks. This dashboard complements the ITU Risk Register, enabling the assessment of all risks related to the open recommendations. More information on the tool is provided in the Information Document [C21/INF/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0011/en).
* *Membership, Resource mobilization and SMEs*: Digital marketing techniques and new platforms including the launch of “MyITU” were successfully used to reach new professional audiences to expand prospects for ITU membership. The group also continued to assess the participation of SMEs, counting 23 new members in 2020, and 26 new Academia members that joined ITU.
* *New initiative:* in view of consolidating efforts, being more efficient and reducing the number of themes/areas of work, the ISC-TF agreed to set up an umbrella group on Digital Transformation, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, with the participation of the Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux and the Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat, and others as necessary, which should cover the following groups and topics: Digital Transformation, Remote Participation, New ITU website, and Event overview page.

1. **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 activities among the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, on issues of mutual interest.
   3. The ISCG held two meetings since the previous report to Council-20 and will be celebrating its next meeting on 1st September 2021. The group has reported to the three Sector advisory groups during this period.
   4. ISCG agreed on the idea of identifying “themes” for intersectoral 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.
   5. In 2019, the ISCG decided on “Climate change” as a pilot theme, where all Sectors could be involved and could collaborate. Since then, the Secretariat has been reporting on the activities related to climate change and how they are been coordinated within the ISC-TF. Progress reports on the activities, including the single page on “Environment and climate change”, as well as internal activities related to environmental sustainability that are taking place in ITU, and an unified Workplan for 2021 had been presented.
   6. During its last meeting in March 2021, the ISCG agreed on addressing “Accessibility” as a new theme to be considered by the group, and for the members to identifying methods of improved and strengthen collaboration.
   7. The ISCG also requested the secretariat to continue to report on other themes such as the ITU new website development, including the harmonization of the websites of the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, as well as on the facilities being used for virtual meetings also with the aim of a possible common approach across the I.
   8. The ISCG also keeps the Mapping Tables updated and posted in its website. The purpose of the mapping work is to identify topics of mutual interest and the entities responsible for those topics across the three Sectors of the Union. The result of the mapping work functions as a guide to facilitate smoother information exchange within the Union in connection with the identified topics of mutual interest.
   9. The ISCG website, contained in the webpage on Intersectoral Coordination, has been updated with new contact details (E-mail: [iscg@itu.int](mailto:iscg@itu.int) and mailing list); access to the documents is now by means of a TIES Account, and any ITU member, independently of the Sector where associated, can have access to the intersectoral coordination related documents posted in this site. The secretariat is still working on improving the information provided on meetings’ details and registration.

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