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| Proposals of the Russian Federation for the improvement of the itu strategic plan for 2024–2027 |

Introduction

The drafting of ITU’s strategic and financial plans should be based primarily on its mandate as set out in the basic texts (Constitution and Convention), the needs of its membership and emerging trends in the external telecommunication/ICT environment. It is also important to consider, however, the development goals and objectives of the United Nations (UN) and recommendations of the UN Joint Inspection Unit in relation to sustainable development, given that ITU is a UN specialized agency in the field of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) and takes on an active role in its activities. The role of telecommunications/ICTs in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and WSIS objectives is broadly recognized. The coordinated and complementary efforts of ITU and its Sectors make it possible to reach more Member States, with greater impact, so as to bridge the digital divide and the standardization gap and contribute to better spectrum management.

Shaping the ITU strategic plan involves addressing many challenges associated with identifying drivers of problems and newly emerging circumstances and trends, some of which are readily apparent, while others are less obvious or completely unknown. Naturally, identifying these issues and understanding whether it is possible/appropriate to consider them when drafting the strategic plan and formulating goals and targets as a means of achieving broader objectives will require the investment of time, money and human resources. Consequently, the drafting of each new strategic plan should tap into accumulated experience and ensure continuity from one to the next. Ultimately, the primary consideration when drafting the ITU strategic plan should be the organization’s mandate, i.e. its statutory activities.

ITU should reaffirm a shared global vision for the development of the telecommunication/ICT sector, under the Connect 2030 Agenda envisaging “an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone.”

Recognizing the Union’s mandate and ongoing activities and programmes, the methodological apparatus/toolkit for ITU’s strategic planning and the need for ITU and its members to have a clear understanding of its goals and objectives and the means of achieving them from a strategic perspective, the Russian Federation proposes its vision for the direction that the strategic plan should take and ways to improve it, as set out under **Proposals** below.

Proposals

1. Comparing the five strategic goals of the current ITU Strategic Plan for 2020–2023 against the purposes set out in Article 1 of the Constitution shows an overall conceptual alignment and broad adherence by ITU to its mandate, though the wording is not fully consistent as the passage of time imposes its own changes on plans. The five strategic goals in the ITU Strategic Plan for 2020–2023 can be retained in the ITU Strategic Plan for 2024–2027, which, among other things, will ensure continuity in ITU’s activities in the long term.

2. The strategic plan should not be too long or overly detailed, which would not only make it difficult to read and analyse and to monitor its implementation but also put the primary areas of ITU’s activities on the same footing as secondary ones and ultimately overstretch resources. Unfunded activities and objectives should not be included in the ITU strategic plan.

3. The purposes and objectives set out in the basic texts of the Union cannot be fulfilled without accounting for changes occurring in the field of telecommunications/ICTs, the economy and society. In this regard, we propose the following formulation for the ITU Mission for the planning period: “Facilitating and broadening peaceful relations, international cooperation and economic and social development of peoples by means of efficient and universally accessible telecommunication services and by ensuring ITU’s leading role in this direction.”

4. The ITU strategic plan should focus on objectives and functions that facilitate the attainment of the strategic goals of the Union, as the leading UN system agency for telecommunications/ICT issues. The “Targets of the Union” (as products of the long-term impact of ITU’s work on all aspects of society) may serve as an indication of progress towards achievement of the strategic goals of the Union, but they must at the same time be linked to the SDGs, in accordance with Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018). The purpose of such targets is to provide direction for where the Union should focus its attention and to materialize the ITU vision for an interconnected world. In this regard, Section 3 of the current ITU strategic plan should be significantly shortened or removed altogether as it is overly dense and the relevant information could be covered under “Targets.”

5. The ITU strategic plan would benefit from better reflecting the role of the regional presence as one of the most important functions of ITU. The regional presence helps to better assess the problems and needs of the regions and assist in addressing them. The main objectives and areas of these activities should be included in the strategic plan as part of “working as One ITU” and not only as Sector objectives. To that end, it is necessary, first and foremost, to resolve the matter of changing the administrative subordination for the regional/area offices. When preparing the corresponding points of the plan, the opinions of the regional telecommunication organizations should be taken into account (See Resolutions 58 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and 25 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference).

6. Issues related to the drafting of Sectoral and intersectoral outcomes remain complex and require further consideration. A lack of precision in their formulation and a lack of clear correspondence between outcomes and indicators for assessing actual implementation of the strategic plan make it difficult for Member States to adequately assess the degree of implementation of the strategic plan. Consequently, in accordance with Resolution 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, it is necessary “to continue to develop a comprehensive ITU results framework to support implementation of the strategic, financial and operational plans and budget and increase the capability of the Union's membership to assess progress in the achievement of ITU goals.”

References

ITU Constitution, ITU Convention, Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); Resolution 151 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); Resolution 191 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); Resolution 200 (Rev. Dubai, 2018); Council Resolution 1404 (C21).

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