|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council Working Group on WSIS and SDG38th meeting – Virtual meeting, 19-20 January 2022** |  |
|  |  |
|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/18** |
| **20 January 2022** |
| **English only** |
| Chairman, Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) |
| Summary of the 38th meeting |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary**This report highlights the main outcomes of the 38th meeting of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG held virtually on 19-20 January 2022 in line with [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf)) and [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en).**Action required**To consider and approve the report and include its main results in the four-year report of the CWG WSIS&SDG to be forwarded to the Council-22 for its consideration and approval and then to PP-22.**References**[ECOSOC Res 2021/28](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2021/28); [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum); [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 A/RES/76/189](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/189); [UNGA Resolution A/RES/75/202](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/379/41/PDF/N2037941.pdf?OpenElement); [Draft Resolution A/C.2/76/L.5](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FC.2%2F76%2FL.56&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop); [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); [*Reports of the 18th, 19th, 20th,21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th , 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th 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%2B10Report.pdf)*;* [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). |

1. **Introduction**

The ITU Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG) held its 38th meeting virtually on 19-20 January 2022. The work of the CWG-WSIS&SDG is conducted in line with [PP-18 Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf) and based on the [Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2019)](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-C-0137/en), including the Terms of Reference of the CWG-WSIS&SDG listed in the annex of this Resolution adopted at the ITU Council 2019.

The meeting was attended virtually by more than 140 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members. The meeting considered 18 documents. Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, followed by Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director, Radiocommunication Bureau (BR), Dr Chaesub Lee, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), delivered welcoming remarks at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of CWG-WSIS&SDG. The Vice-Chairmen, Ms. Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan), Ms. Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Prof. Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Wojciech Berezowski (Poland), Ms. Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), and Mr. Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia) were present.

1. **Welcoming Remarks**

**Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General,** welcomed all participants to the 38th meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG. He thanked the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen for their leadership and guidance in the WSIS Process. Special recognition was presented to Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin for his work as the Chairman of this Group since September 2006. Mr. Zhao reiterated the continued role of ITU as the UN agency for ICTs, to implement the WSIS outcomes and accelerate achievement of the SDGs. The pivotal role of ICTs and ITU during the COVID-19 pandemic was further highlighted.

Mr. Zhao invited all participants to contribute to the WSIS Forum 2022 that will be held on 15 March onwards and will conclude in the final week from 30 May – 3 June 2022.

He highlighted that the year 2022 will be of additional significance due to the upcoming ITU’s Plenipotentiary Conference, where relevant resolutions will be discussed, including the Resolution 140 on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes. He highlighted that as we are heading towards the forthcoming review process (WSIS+20) in 2025, cooperation between all WSIS stakeholders will be key.

Mr. Zhao informed that the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day celebrations will take place during the WSIS Forum 2022 with the theme “Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”. He added that this celebration will benefit from the partners and knowledge developed in the ICTs for Older Persons Track this year, including the hackathon and the WSIS Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize.

Mr. Zhao thanked the confirmed partners contributing to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2022 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, and IEEE, and noted that such achievement can’t be made without the support and contributions from stakeholders and invited all to consider contributing to the WSIS Fund in Trust.

Mr. Zhao strongly encouraged members to continue contributing to the contest of WSIS Prizes and to the WSIS Stocktaking Database, bringing the stories and projects from the grassroots to the international community.

**Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General,** also welcomed participants to the CWGWSIS&SDG and thanked the Chairman and the Vice-chairmen of the group for their leaderships of the WSIS Process. Mr. Johnson emphasised the importance of the WSIS process and that ITU is working closely with other UN entities in aligning the WSIS towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He emphasized that the WSIS Process is an important source of hope and an excellent example of collective strength with the WSIS Forum as the world’s leading platform for ICTs for development. Mr. Johnson noted the commitment and inclusive spirit from stakeholders to maintain the momentum of the annual WSIS Forum even in the challenging time of a pandemic.

He underscored the importance of UN multistakeholder process, such as WSIS Forum, which strengthen partnership and collaboration to achieve the SDGs through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). He thanked participants for their contributions to enrich the WSIS Forum 2021 sessions, drew attention to the WSIS Forum 2022, WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes 2022 calls for action and looked forward for the group’s active participation.

As the Chairman of the ITU WSIS&SDG Task Force, he emphasized on the commitment of the Task Force in implementing the WSIS outcomes and aligning the WSIS Action Lines with the Sustainable Development Goals and highlighted the importance of coordination and collaboration with the three Bureaus and the General Secretariat towards a successful WSIS Forum 2022.

Mr. Johnson highlighted the components of the WSIS Process, such as the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), and the Partnership on Measuring Information Society for Development, which are real successful examples of existing well-functioning digital cooperation in the UN System.

In closing, Mr. Johnson expressed ITU’s commitment to working with Member States to realise the WSIS vision into concrete action and results.

The **Chairman** expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Houlin Zhao and Mr. Malcolm Johnson for their constant support and leadership.

**Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director, Radiocommunication Bureau (BR),** highlighted the ongoing activities in BR and underscored BR’s contribution to the annual WSIS Forum, with an emphasis on the use of ICTs in implementing the WSIS Action Lines and achieving the SDGs. He emphasized on the importance of the WSIS Process led by ITU, reassuring the ITU-R Study Groups commitment with the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines. He expressed BR’s dedication to continue to strengthen engagement in the upcoming WSIS Forum 2022.

**Dr Chaesub Lee, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB),** informed the Group about the ongoing activities in TSB, including issues related to the WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs. He reiterated that TSB is continuing collaboration with other bureaus, the following World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), and the ITU’s Plenipotentiary Conference. He highlighted the WSIS process as a platform, which brings together all communities to discuss global progress towards a sustainable future. He highlighted the continued work of TSB in contributing to the WSIS Process and the annual WSIS Forum.

**Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT),** informed the group about the ongoing BDT activities, in particularly on the recently launched ITU’s figures on stake of global connectivity, and preparations towards WTDC. She highlighted the important role of BDT in advancing the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of the SDGs. She emphasized on the collaboration of BDT and the WSIS Forum team, in particular to achieve the aim of 50:50 gender inclusion and to encourage more inter-generational activities engaging youth and older persons, with the aim of promoting just and equal information and knowledge societies.

The **Elected Officials** expressed appreciations to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen for their continuous support to the WSIS process and the work of all Sectors of the ITU for many years.

The **Chairman** thanked the Elected Officials for their interventions and their commitment towards the implementation of the WSIS Process. He invited Directors of TSB and BDT to submit the WSIS-related outcomes of the WTSA-20 and WTDC-21 for the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting.

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/1**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0001/en)) reflecting the distribution of the documents was adopted.

1. **Adoption of the time management plan**

The time management plan was adopted as proposed.

1. **Update on relevant activities related to the WSIS process and SDGs**
	1. **UNGA Resolution: ICT for Sustainable Development (**[**UNGA A/RES/76/189**](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/189)**)**

The Secretariat provided an update on the UNGA Resolution as adopted on the 17 December 2021 on Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development.

* 1. **Our Common Agenda, Report of the UN Secretary-General** **(**[**UNGA A/76/L.8**](https://undocs.org/en/A/76/L.8))

The Secretariat provided a briefing on the follow-up to the UNSG’s report and provided additional updates on the “Our Common Agenda”.

* 1. **ICT-related discussions and outcomes of the 76th UNGA (**[**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/16**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0016/en)**)**

The Secretariat reported on the ICT-related discussions at the UNGA 76th Session General Debate, the ICT-related outcomes were highlighted, and the participation by ITU Elected Officials and ITU co-hosted events were listed.

* 1. **Outcomes of UN CSTD 2021 and updates on the UN CSTD 2022**
		1. Dr Peter Major, Acting Chair, CSTD, provided an update on the outcomes of the CSTD 2021-2022 Inter-sessional Panel held on 17-19 November 2021.
		2. Dr Major also informed the group on the upcoming twenty-fifth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, scheduled for 28 Mar - 01 Apr 2022. This meeting will continue to address the two priority themes:
* Industry 4.0 for inclusive development
* Science, technology and innovation for sustainable urban development in a post-pandemic world.

 The Commission, according to its mandate, will also continue contributing to the annual review progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to the overall review of WSIS by the UNGA in 2025.

* + 1. The intervention by Dr Major is available as an information document [CWGWSIS&SDG38/INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-INF-0002/en).
	1. **UNESCO Resolution on WSIS adopted in the General Conference 2021 (**[**UNESCO 41 C/27**](https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark%3A/48223/pf0000379370?2=null&queryId=0d12b94f-8148-4712-b375-04f920baa169)**)**
		1. UNESCO’s representative Mr Joe Hironaka provided an update on the activities towards implementation of WSIS outcomes, highlighting the Report by the UNESCO’s Director-General on implementation of WSIS outcomes, and roadmap to support coherent system-wide reporting on WSIS outcomes, which include the relevant resolution that invites the Director-General, UNESCO, to ensure a leading role for the Organization in the twenty-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) by implementing the outlined road map in alignment with agreed United Nations reporting mechanisms on WSIS outcomes;
		2. The ongoing UNESCO’s activities towards the WSIS Forum 2022 were also presented. In line with the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), UNESCO and ITU are planning to organize the Special Track on ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures, Hackathon and Special Prize on preserving the indigenous languages.
		3. He thanked the WSIS Secretariat for an excellent coordination and cited the WSIS Process as a good example of interagency digital cooperation and collaboration.
	2. **Internet Governance Forum 2021**
		1. Mr. Wojciech Berezowski (Poland) provided an outcome report of the IGF 2021, which was hosted by the Government of Poland in Katowice from **6 to 10 December 2021** under the theme of “Internet United”.
		2. The intervention by Mr. Berezowski is available as an information document [CWGWSIS&SDG38/INF/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-INF/en)
1. **ITU’s activities related to WSIS Process**

The following documents were presented by the Secretariat:

* 1. **Preparations towards the WSIS Forum 2022** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/2**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0002/en)): The Secretariat provided an update on the ongoing preparations towards the WSIS Forum 2022, which is scheduled to start on **15 March** with the final week on **30 May – 3 June 2022**. The Secretariat noted that the current WSIS Forum 2022 preparations for the final week are being made for both a hybrid event and a fully virtual event considering the ongoing Covid-19 situation. The overall theme of the WSIS Forum 2022 is “ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs”. Attention was drawn towards the ongoing calls for action, as follows:
		1. Official submissions to the WSIS Secretariat on the Thematic Aspects and Innovations on the Format to be made by filling out the OCP online form via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum) by **7 March 2022** (this form is also to be used to request workshops and exhibition spaces).
		2. Open call for nominations for WSIS Forum 2022 Multistakeholder High-Level Track Facilitators by direct submission to wsis-info@itu.int. Deadline: **7 March 2022.**
		3. WSIS Photo Contest 2022 submissions via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum). Deadline: **7 March 2022.**
		4. WSIS Forum 2022 Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize via [www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum). **Deadline 1 March 2022.**
		5. WSIS Forum 2022 activities and Special Tracks: WSIS TalkX, Hackathon on ICTs and Indigenous Languages, regional engagement and outreach, ICTs for Developing Countries (and Least Developed Countries), ICTs and Youth, ICTs and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities and Specific Needs, ICTs and Older Persons, ICTs and Gender Mainstreaming, ICTs for Well-being, Happiness and Peace, ICTs and Indigenous Peoples and Cultures, Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development, Cybersecurity, and ICTs for Industry 4.0.
		6. The WSIS Forum 2022 Open Consultation Process (OCP) is structured in five phases. Members of the Group were informed about the upcoming Second Virtual Meeting (the second phase) of the OCP on **31 January 2022**.
	2. **Report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (2021)** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/3**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0003/en))
		1. The Secretariat provided an overview of the report of ITU’s activities and events towards the implementation of the WSIS outcomes during the period of November 2020 – November 2021. This annual report provides updates on the tasks carried out by the ITU at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS Process.
		2. The Report will be considered as the official submissions from ITU for different internal and external WSIS and SDGs process related meetings, such as the ITU Council, UNCSTD and other WSIS related meetings. The report will also be submitted to the meetings and official calls related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the crosscutting role of ICTs in achieving the SDGs.
	3. **ITU Roadmaps C2, C4, C5 and C6** (oral presentation):
		1. The Secretariat informed the Group that the next edition of the ITU Roadmaps will be drafted in accordance with the template approved during the 36th CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting in January 2021. This version will be prepared in alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2024-2027, including the outcomes of WTSA-20 and WTDC-21.
		2. In addition, the Group was informed that ITU has been performing the role of the lead WSIS Action Lines facilitator and implementer as WSIS Action Line C4 (Capacity Building) and that this action line will be added to the next edition of the Roadmaps.
	4. **WSIS Special Initiatives (**[**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/7**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0007/en)**):**
		1. The Secretariat has presented the WSIS Special Initiatives, as proposed by the stakeholders to keep the conversation, network and outreach open all year long with the objective to enhance the WSIS Forum and its special tracks, aiming at contributing towards the achievement of the WSIS Action Lines objectives, and the advancement of the SDGs.
		2. Stakeholders are invited to contribute to a new set of ongoing activities, as following: WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, WSIS Youth Campaigns, ICTs Against Hunger, WSIS Gender Trendsetters, and a new repository of Women in Technology hosted by the WSIS Stocktaking.
	5. **WSIS Fund in Trust 2022** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/9**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0009/en)): While encouraging all ITU membership to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2022, the following contributors were thanked: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar, and IEEE. Partnership packages are available online: <https://www.itu.int/go/wsisfund>.
	6. **WSIS Stocktaking Process 2022** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/5**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0005/en))
		1. The Secretariat provided briefing on the activities towards implementation and follow-up to the WSIS Stocktaking 2022 Call for Action. All WSIS stakeholders were invited to continue submitting updates and new entries online at [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking). Submitted activities will be reflected in the WSIS Stocktaking Report 2022, which will be released during the final week of the WSIS Forum 2022.
		2. The Secretariat further provided updates on the following initiatives: (i) [The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response – ICT Case Repository](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Files/outcomes/draft/WSISStocktakingICTCaseRepository_TheCoronavirusResponseSpecialReport_DRAFT.pdf); (ii) [WSIS Forum 2022 Photo Contest](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/en/PhotoContest#:~:text=An%20exhibition%20will%20be%20held,ITU%20HQ%20in%20Geneva%20onwards.); (iii) [WSIS Forum 2022 Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/Home/HealthyAgeing); (iv) [WSIS Stocktaking Repository of Women in Technology](http://www.itu.int/go/WSISGender).
	7. **WSIS Prizes 2022** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/6**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0006/en))
		1. The Secretariat provided an update on the [WSIS Prizes 2022](http://www.wsis.org/prizes) ongoing contest, launched in September 2021 with intention to continue celebrating outstanding ICT initiatives from stakeholders all over the world in implementing the WSIS Action Lines for accelerating the SDGs.
		2. The Group was invited to promote the ongoing Submission Phase among their communities and networks and submit ICT projects before the deadline initially set for the 21 January. Based on several requests from the stakeholders, the deadline is considered to be extended until 31 January 2022.
	8. **WSIS Gateway** (oral presentation):An update was presented on the ongoing procurement process for acquiring proposals for the redesign of WSIS Websites and Web Applications, and a creation of the WSIS Gateway. The expression of interest has been received from companies before the closing date for bids (24 December 2021) and their bids are currently being reviewed.
	9. **ITU Sector Study Group activities related to the WSIS and SDG Process** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/10**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0010/en)): The Secretariat provided information on the strengthened collaboration between the ITU Study Groups and the WSIS Process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlighting the engagement of Study Groups towards the WSIS Forum 2022. It also highlighted on the collaborative efforts between the Study Groups and the WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes.
	10. **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/4**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0004/en)):
		1. The Secretariat provided a briefing on the implementation of the WSIS process at the regional level in 2021 in collaboration with the Regional Offices, UN Regional Commissions, and other regional bodies.
		2. The work of the ITU Regional offices and area offices in strengthening multistakeholder collaboration at the regional level to facilitate the implementation of WSIS, including the contribution towards the agenda and the programme of the annual WSIS Forum, has been particularly highlighted.
		3. All stakeholders are invited to participate in the regional events organised by ITU and regional organisations on WSIS and SDGs, and to participate at regional WSIS sessions in the Regional Development Forums. Stakeholders are also encouraged to submit and share regional initiatives to the WSIS Stocktaking database and submit ICTs projects for the WSIS Prizes 2022.
	11. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022** (oral presentation): The Secretariat provided an update on the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022 (WTISD-22) under the theme of “Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing”, and invited all to visit <https://www.itu.int/en/wtisd/2022/Pages/default.aspx> for further information.
	12. **Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/8**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0008/en)):
		1. The Secretariat presented the work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development related to the use of new data sources/big data in monitoring digital development and international targets. The document provides information on the recent activities of in the context of work of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development in addressing data gaps and data quality in countries.
		2. ITU’s responsibility in the Partnership was highlighted, particularly on the activities of collecting, harmonizing and disseminating the core ICT access and ICT household indicators and is regularly reviewing the definition of the indicators to ensure that it remains relevant to the fast-changing evolution of ICT.
		3. The Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI), and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), met in September 2021 to discuss amongst other items the indicators related to 5G, over-the-top (OTT) applications and mobile money services, e-waste indicators in household surveys, child online protection and measuring mobile money.
		4. As a key contribution of ITU to measuring digital development, *Facts and Figures 2021* was released on 30 November 2021. It was also highlighted that the Partnership submitted a document to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) for its 53rd session to be held from 1-4 March 2022.
	13. **UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)** (oral presentation):
		1. UNESCO’s representative provided updates on the activities of UNGIS. UNESCO took over the rotational Chairmanship of UNGIS for the period 2021-2022. The Vice-Chairmen for this period are ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD, and UN ESCWA ([www.ungis.org](http://www.ungis.org)).
		2. UNGIS members also worked together towards a joint contribution for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021 and organised a side-event during the HLPF 2021.
		3. He informed about the UNGIS meeting held during the UNESCWA Regional WSIS Review event in December 2021.
		4. He also emphasized on the importance of the Decade of the Indigenous Languages and informed that the joint statement will be prepared by UNGIS.
1. **The Group considered and discussed with appreciation all contributions forwarded to this meeting and made the following recommendations:**
	1. **Updates on UN processes in New York**
		1. The group appreciated the briefing by the Secretariat on the ICT-related discussions and outcomes of 76th UNGA, and the Secretariat was invited to continue providing input from New York in the future CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings.
		2. The Secretariat and members of the group were encouraged to strengthen the visibility and promotion of WSIS activities at the UN meetings in New York.
		3. In follow up to the 37th CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting, the WSIS process is to be reflected in the draft Strategic Plan of the Union for 2024-2027, facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
		4. The group recognized ITU’s strategic leadership role in the UN multistakeholder WSIS process, including the coordination with more than 30 UN agencies in implementing the WSIS Action Lines, and proposed to continue strengthening this leadership role.
		5. The group noted with appreciation the Secretariat’s effort in aligning the framework of the WSIS&SDG with the proposals in the UNSG’s common agenda to avoid duplicating existing multistakeholder processes and encourage them to continue these efforts.
	2. **UNESCO Resolution on WSIS adopted in the General Conference 2021**
		1. The Group appreciated the updates provided by UNESCO’s representative and welcomed the good collaboration between UNESCO and ITU’s WSIS Secretariat.
		2. The Group noted the Report by the UNESCO’s Director-General on implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes and appreciated the resolution on the Organization’s consolidated road map towards the twenty-year review (WSIS+20) in 2025.
		3. Some members of the Group requested the ITU Secretary-General to present the Draft ITU’s Roadmap on WSIS+20 at the ITU Council 2022, aiming to continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS beyond 2025, in close collaboration with the UN agencies involved.
	3. **WSIS Forum 2022**
		1. The Group noted:
			1. All updates on the calls for action received towards the preparations of the WSIS Forum 2022.
			2. The deadline to contribute to the Open Consultation Process, including request for workshops/exhibition spaces and speakers is **7 March 2022**.
			3. The invitation to contribute to the WSIS Forum 2022 Hackathon on ICTs and Indigenous Languages, and the WSIS Forum 2022 Special Prizes on ICTs for Preserving, Revitalizing and Promoting Indigenous Languages, as well as to the second edition of the WSIS Forum Healthy Ageing Innovation Prize.
		2. The Group welcomed the increased participation of UN agencies.
		3. 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 2022.
		4. The Group and the Secretariat were invited to explore collaborative ways of increasing participation, especially in the virtual format for the stakeholders coming from the developing countries (including LDCs).
		5. The Group appreciated the voluntary efforts led by the stakeholders to enhance the work and outreach of the WSIS Forum and its Special Tracks through the special initiatives. The Secretariat was requested to further promote and coordinate the work of all the special initiatives, including WSIS Multistakeholder Alliance on ICTs and Older Persons, WSIS Youth Campaigns, ICTs Against Hunger, WSIS Gender Trendsetters, and a new repository of Women in Technology hosted by the WSIS Stocktaking.
		6. The Group noted the work by the WSIS Youth Campaigners in empowering youth through the WSIS Forum and its stakeholders, furthering discussion on ICTs and Climate Action, and ICTs and Business.
		7. The Group appreciated the cross-thematic activities between different Special Initiatives to merge communities and engage them in networking and discussions with common objective, such as the mentorship programs and knowledge cafes during the WSIS Forum and beyond covering topics of gender mainstreaming, emerging technologies, online safety for youth and older persons etc.
		8. ITU Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Forum 2022, identify new thematic areas, propose innovative formats, and facilitate the participation of all interested stakeholders, with particular focus on the developing countries (including LDCs).
		9. It was proposed that the WSIS Forum 2022 Agenda and Programme are shaped in consideration of the upcoming WTDC, which will be held following the final week of the WSIS Forum 2022.
	4. **Report: ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (2021)**
		1. The Group appreciated the Report and welcomed suggestion by the Secretariat for making it more interactive and engaging, while maintaining the essence of all reported activities.
		2. The Group encouraged the WSIS Secretariat to work closely with BR, TSB, BDT 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.
		3. The Group invited Directors of TSB and BDT to present the 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, taking into account the revised template for ITU Roadmaps C2, C4, C5, and C6.
	5. **ITU Roadmaps C2, C4, C5 and C6**
		1. The Group noted that the next edition of the ITU Roadmaps will be prepared in accordance with the template approved during the 36th CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting in January 2021, and in alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2024-2027, including the outcomes of WTSA-20 and WTDC-21.
		2. The Secretariat was requested to finalize arrangement of ITU as the lead facilitator of WSIS Action Line C4 (Capacity Building), and report to Council 2022.
		3. The Group appreciated ITU’s lead role as the WSIS Action Lines facilitator and implementer of the WSIS Action Line C4 (Capacity Building) and requested that this action line is to be added to the next edition of the Roadmaps.
	6. **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes**
		1. 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 organisations.
		2. The Group noted the holding of the inaugural edition of the Arab International Digital Cooperation and Development Forum 2021 (DCDF-2021), under the slogan of “shaping our digital future”, from 13 to 23 December 2021, organized by UNESCWA in collaboration with ITU, WSIS Secretariat and ITU Arab regional office. The Group noted the importance of enhancing linkages between the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was highlighted at the event.
		3. The Membership was invited to participate in the regional events organised by ITU and regional organisations on WSIS and SDGs.
		4. The Vice-Chairmen of CWG-WSIS&SDG were encouraged to contribute towards regional reporting for the next meetings of CWG-WSIS&SDG.
	7. **WSIS Stocktaking Process 2022**
		1. The Group appreciated all updates provided regarding the WSIS Stocktaking activities.
		2. The Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Stocktaking activities and contribute by sharing good practices in responding to COVID-19 pandemic.
		3. The Group appreciated the launch of the repositories on ICTs and older persons, on ICTs and indigenous languages, and Women in Technology.
		4. The Group was invited to contribute to the various WSIS Stocktaking repositories and to consider working with the Secretariat on launching other meaningful ICT-related repositories and reports.
		5. The Group invited the Secretariat to use the WSIS Stocktaking platform to streamline and collect updated information from all three ITU sectors and General Secretariat on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and the SDGs.
	8. **WSIS Prizes 2022**
		1. The Group appreciated all efforts made and updates on the calls for submission for the WSIS Prizes 2022 and noted that the Submission Phase deadline set for 21 January 2022, will be extended until 31 January 2022, as proposed.
		2. ITU Membership was encouraged to participate actively in the WSIS Prizes 2022.
		3. The Group and the Secretariat were invited to explore collaborative ways of increasing submissions from the developing countries (including LDCs).
	9. **WSIS Gateway:**
		1. The Group noted with appreciation the update on the ongoing procurement process, acquiring proposals for the redesign of WSIS Websites and Web Applications, and a creation of the WSIS Gateway.
		2. The Group requested the Secretariat to prepare as separate document briefing on WSIS Gateway for the future CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings.
	10. **UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**
		1. UNESCO’s representative briefed the Group on UNGIS activity.
		2. The Group noted with appreciations the work of UNGIS and its contributions to the High-level Political Forum 2021.
		3. The Group appreciated the Secretariat’s efforts to initiate consultations with the UNGIS Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen towards WSIS+20 and report back at the next CWG WSIS&SDG meeting.
		4. The Group requested the Secretariat to submit a document on further updates on UNGIS activities in the future CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings.
	11. **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022**
		1. The Group was invited to actively participate in commemorating the theme of WTISD-22 throughout the year with national, regional, and international initiatives to accelerate digital transformation according to the guidelines that will be provided by ITU.
		2. The Group requested the Secretariat to share the detailed plan of activities for the WTISD 2022 celebrations, aligning it with the WSIS Forum 2022 activities related to the ICT’s and Older Persons special track.
	12. **Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development**
		1. The Group noted the report on activity of Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development.
		2. The Group encouraged the Secretariat to organise a workshop at the WSIS Forum 2022 and share the outcomes in the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting.
	13. **WSIS Fund in Trust 2022**
		1. The group expressed its deep gratitude to the contributors to the WSIS Fund in Trust 2022: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, State of Qatar and IEEE.
		2. The Group invited the Membership and all WSIS stakeholders to contribute to the WSIS Fund in Trust and to explore the WSIS Forum 2022 partnership packages presented by the Secretariat.
	14. **ITU Sector Study Group activities related to the WSIS and SDG Process**
		1. The Group appreciated the continuing work between the ITU Sector Study Groups and the WSIS process.
		2. 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 and use their outcomes in work of the Study Groups.
2. **WSIS Activities related to COVID-19 Response (**[**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/11**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0011/en)**)**
	1. The Group noted with appreciation the efforts made by the ITU and its Secretariat for providing opportunities for stakeholders to partner and collaborate during COVID-19.
	2. The Group and all stakeholders are invited to continue contributing to the year-long call to the WSIS Stocktaking COVID-19 Response – ICT Case Repository [www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking). All submissions received by 1 March 2022 will be featured in the third edition of the Report.
	3. 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.
3. **Activities of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (**[**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/12**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0012/en)**)**: The Group appreciated the updates provided by the Secretariat and invited them to continue providing updates on the activities of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development to the next meeting, including the recently published reports.
4. **Discussion on the Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes: WSIS Beyond 2025**
	1. Bearing in mind the successful implementation of the WSIS Process since its launch, particularly emphasizing on the benefit for the developing countries, and on ITU as one of the leading UN agencies of this process, the Group recognized the importance to continue the implementation of the WSIS Process with ITU as a lead coordinator.
	2. The Group discussed ITU’s role in preparations towards the UNGA high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025, together with the UNESCO and other involved UN agencies. Proposals from the membership to the Council-22 and PP-22 will be appreciated.
	3. The Group requested the Secretariat to provide more information from other UN entities about preparations for WSIS+20 and related UN processes, including UNGA, UNESCO, UNGIS, ECOSOC, CSTD, et al, to inform Member States in the preparation for PP-22.
	4. Some members of the Group requested the ITU Secretary-General to present the Draft ITU’s Roadmap on WSIS+20 at the ITU Council 2022, aiming to continue to play a lead role in the implementation of WSIS beyond 2025, in close collaboration with the UN agencies involved.
	5. Some members of the Group proposed a special session during the ITU Council 2022 to work on a WSIS+20 Roadmap highlighting ITU’s leadership role in the process while engaging with all UNGIS members
	6. The Group agreed to forward this Report to the CWG-SFP emphasizing on the importance of linking the Draft Strategic Plan with the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
	7. Contribution by the Russian Federation - Proposals for the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/15**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0015/en))
		1. The Group noted the document presented by the Russian Federation with appreciation and noted that Group members could consider the proposals below in their preparations to PP-22:
			1. To recommend Member States to submit proposals to PP-22 for determination of the ways to prepare ITU for the WSIS review, to carry out work to fulfil the tasks set by WSIS within the framework of the responsibility and mandate of the ITU to implement the decisions of the Summit in close connection with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
			2. Following the good practice towards preparation for the WSIS+ 10 meeting, to take stock of the achievements, opportunities and challenges that have arisen due to the emergence of new technologies, in particularly affected by the pandemic.
			3. Building on the positive experience of the WSIS+10 Review preparatory process through Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform, by holding the WSIS + 10 High-level Event in the format of the extended WSIS Forum 2014 in preparation for the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2015, to consider using this approach and in preparation for 2025 under WSIS + 20.
		2. It was also recommended to submit assessment document to the 2022 Council session on the implementation of the priorities of the WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, this could be a good foundation to the WSIS+20 Roadmap.
		3. To invite the ITU Secretary General to provide consultation and coordination with UNESCO and other interested members of UNGIS on preparation for the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes in 2025, taking into account abovementioned approach.
		4. Some members of the Group expressed their support of above proposals.
		5. The group discussed on the using the term “digital society” in the Resolution 71 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) and consider that for the time being there is no definition of this term. In all relevant UNGA resolutions, including the latest one A/76/189, the UNGA used the term “information society”.
		6. The group propose to replace term “digital society” in the draft modification of Resolution 71 (ITU Strategic Plan 2024-2027) to “information society” and request the Secretariat to inform CWG-CFP on this proposal.
		7. The members of the group and the Secretariat were invited to:
			1. reflect relevant decisions of WTDC-21, WTSA-20 in documents prepared for PP-22.
			2. among proposals on further activity, to reflect main events, documents, trends and objectives in the field of WSIS&SDGs, which emerged since 2018, taking into account UNGA Resolutions 70/1 and 70/125, as well as relevant Sector’s resolutions.
5. **Preparation to PP-22 (**[**Resolution 140**](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts/RES-140-E.pdf)**)**
	1. Membership was invited to present views on the amendment of PP Resolution 140, taking into account, if any, new environment, including the impact of COVID-19, and ITU’s role in the preparation to 2025 UNGA overall review.
	2. The Group noted the document presented by the Russian Federation - *Proposals for the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG**(*[***CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/15***](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0015/en)*)* - which includes the proposed draft revisions to PP Resolution 140 (Rev. Dubai, 2018), and recommended to continue consultations between RTOs on a modification of the PP Resolution 140.
6. **ITU’s activities in relation to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
	1. **ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2022** ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/13**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0013/en))
		1. Noting the letter from the President of the ECOSOC ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/INF/1](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-INF-0001/en)) inviting ITU Council to provide substantive inputs to the 2022 HLPF on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and SDGs 4, 5,14,15 and 17 to be reviewed at this year’s session, the Group was invited to consider and endorse the draft input contained in document 38/3 to be presented to the Chair of Council for its submission by deadline of 1 March 2022.
		2. The Group appreciated the document presented by the Secretariat and acknowledged the challenges and difficulties of meeting the required deadlines.
		3. The Secretariat was requested to:

Establish a correspondence group under the auspices of CWG-WSIS&SDG, open to all interested group members, to for further consider the draft text, provide additional inputs and updates, and endorse the final ITU Council input to HLPF-22.  The CWG-WSIS&SDG management team shall dispose of the following timeline:

* + - 1. Post a revised version by 4 February 2022 for comments and inputs from the group members to be received by 18 February 2022;
			2. Consider and consolidate all inputs and provide and updated final version by 22 February 2022;
			3. Send the ITU Council contribution to HLPF 2022 to the Council Chairman by 25 February 2022 for its submission to the President of ECOSOC before the deadline of 1 March 2022.
	1. Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([**CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/14**](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en))
		1. The Secretariat presented the document, which highlights ITU’s activities and engagements that are advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
		2. The Secretariat informed the Group on the plans and work dedicated towards mapping activities between ITU’s activities and SDGs, also highlighting the linkages with the WSIS Action Lines. These mapping activities will be reflected in a form of an interactive tool integrated in the new WSIS Gateway, which is currently being under construction.
		3. The Group noted the report with appreciation.
1. **4-year report on the Group’s activities to Council 2022 and PP-22**
	1. The draft 4-year report on the Group’s activities to Council 2022 and PP-22 will be prepared by the CWG-WSIS&SDG management team together with the secretariat based on the annual CWG-WSIS&SDG reports to Council including the report on this meeting
		1. The draft report will be posted by 31 January 2022 for comments and inputs from the group members to be received by 7 February 2022;
		2. The final version of the 4-year report on the Group’s activities to Council 2022 and PP-22 shall be posted by 19 February 2022.
2. **Other business**: The Group requested the Secretariat to submit this Report to the CWG-SFP to take action, as appropriate.
3. **Approval of the Report:** The Group agreed to approve the Report of 38th CWG-WSIS&SDG Meeting.
4. **Concluding Remarks**
	1. Closing the meeting, the Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU Membership who participated in the work of the 38th meeting of CWG-WSIS&SDG and thanked the Vice-Chairmen, Ms. Aygun Ahmadova (Azerbaijan), Ms. Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Prof. Ahmad Reza Sharafat (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Wojciech Berezowski (Poland), Ms. Janet Umutesi (Rwanda), Mr. Mansour Al-Qurashi (Saudi Arabia), and especially all who contributed to the work of CWG-WSIS&SDG and WSIS Process. Appreciations were expressed towards Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General; Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General; Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Director, BR; Dr Chaesub Lee, Director, TSB; and Ms. Doreen Bogdan, Director, BDT. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance to Mr. Catalin Marinescu, Head of SPD, and the Secretariat: Ms. Gitanjali Sah, Mr. Vladimir Stankovic, Mr. Michael Kioy, Ms. Ruth Sidabutar, Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Ms. Victoria Sukenik, Ms. Esperanza Magpantay, Ms. Nancy Sundberg, and Mr. Mario Castro Grande.

He also thanked Dr Peter Major, Acting Chair, CSTD and Mr. Joe Hironaka, UNESCO’s representative present at this meeting, for their contributions.

* 1. The Group expressed its thanks to Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of the CWG-WSIS&SDG, for his able chairmanship and guidance.

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