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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| REPORT ON ITU’S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF WSIS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS IN THEIR FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW PROCESS | |
| **Purpose**  The objective of this report is to provide information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in the context of the implementation 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.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Convening platforms; partnerships and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated resources in the financial plan.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/70/125*](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1)*,* [*A/71/212*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/212)*,* [*A/70/299*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/299)*,* [*A/70/684*](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684)*,* [*A/RES/73/218*](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/218)*; UN ECOSOC Resolutions* [*Resolution E/RES/2022/15*](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2022d15_en.pdf)*; Resolutions* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf)*,* [*Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council Resolutions* [*1332 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/19/cl/c/S19-CL-C-0137!!MSW-E.docx)*,* [*1334 (Modified 2015)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/resolution-1334.docx)*; WTDC Resolutions* [*30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf)*; WTSA Resolutions* [*75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-RES-T.75-2022)*; WRC Resolutions* [*61-2 (Modified 2019)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-2-2019)*; Reports of the CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings* [*33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*;* [*Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG Meetings held since PP-18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0020/en)*;* [*Report on the Outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG Meetings held since Council 21*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0019/en)*;* [*Roadmap for ITU’s Activities to Help Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en)*;* [*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*](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf#page=21)*;* [*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) [*ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2021;*](https://www.itu.int/dms_ties/itu-s/md/21/cwgwsis36/c/S21-CWGWSIS36-C-0022!!PDF-E.pdf)*[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap;](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/22/cl/c/S22-CL-C-0059!!MSW-E.docx)* | |

1. **Introduction**
   1. This report provides information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in the context of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), its review process and vision beyond 2025, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) facilitates membership input and guidance on the ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda and elaborates such proposals to the Council as may be necessary for adapting ITU to its role in building the information society ([Resolution 140](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf) (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference). Within ITU, effective coordination of ITU’s strategies and activities in relation to WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been ensured by the WSIS&SDG Task Force, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.
2. **ITU’s activities for the implementation of the WSIS outcomes**
   1. In line with Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C19), the Secretary-General on an annual basis prepares a comprehensive report on [ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx)*,* providing an overview of ITU activities and projects undertaken to implement the WSIS outcomes and in support of the 2030 Agenda.
   2. With the aim of highlighting the importance of WSIS Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure), C4 (Capacity building), C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) and C6 (Enabling environment), where ITU is playing the role of sole facilitator and implementer, the next edition of ITU’s [WSIS Action Lines Roadmaps](http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx) for C2, C4, C5 and C6 will be prepared in accordance with the template approved by CWG-WSIS&SDG and in alignment with the Strategic Plan of the Union for 2024-2027, and will be made available at the next CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting.
   3. The Council at its 2016 session resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps to achieve the 2030 Agenda, within ITU’s mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget. To this end, ITU-led WSIS activities, including the [WSIS Forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum), the [WSIS Stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking) and the [WSIS Prizes](http://www.wsis.org/prizes), have been aligned with the SDGs, noting the [WSIS-SDG Matrix](http://www.wsis.org/sdg) developed by UN agencies.
   4. In 2022 and 2023 two WSIS Forum events were held: [WSIS Forum 2022 (“ICTs for Well-Being, Inclusion and Resilience: WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2022/)”) and [WSIS Forum 2023 (“WSIS Action Lines for building back better and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs](http://www.wsis.org/forum)”). Inputs from both events were submitted by ITU and other WSIS Forum co-organizers to the annual UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as a multistakeholder contribution to the 2030 Agenda ([input to HLPF 2022](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs/world-summit-on-the-information-society-wsis-forum-1); [input to HLPF 2023](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs/world-summit-on-the-information-society)).
   5. ITU is chairing the Steering Committee of the [Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/intlcoop/partnership/default.aspx) in the first half of 2023. During its sessions at WSIS Forum 2023, the Partnership highlighted the importance of producing high-quality and timely ICT statistics and leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics and the urgent need to identify follow-up indicators to measure progress in achieving the development goals, including for the Global Digital Compact (GDC).
   6. ITU is the co-chair with UNDP of the [United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/) for the period 2023-2024. ITU previously chaired UNGIS in 2022-2023. Throughout, ITU has been working closely with the more than 30 UNGIS members to implement [Resolution 70/125](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/814431/files/A_70_L.33-EN.pdf?ln=en) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), entitled “Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”. UNGIS annually contributes to HLPF with an input and side event ([input to HLPF 2022](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs/united-nations-group-on-the-information-society-ungis-1)[, input to HLPF 2023](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs/united-nations-group-on-the-information-society-0) and [side event at HLPF 2022](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/Articles/View/1206)). The side event at HLPF 2023 was proposed by Peru, with the date and time yet to be confirmed.
3. **WSIS+20 review**
   1. Preparations for the WSIS+20 review process are ongoing. [CWG-WSIS&SDG](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0018/en) initiated discussions on the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 review process and its preparations. The Secretary-General's report elaborating the role of ITU in the WSIS+20 review process (“[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/22/cl/c/S22-CL-C-0059!!MSW-E.docx)“) was presented and noted at the Plenipotentiary Conference (Bucharest, 2022). Several sessions on the WSIS+20 review process were held at WSIS Forum 2022 and 2023, with the participation of all stakeholders. The discussions covered examples of reporting templates that could be used by WSIS action line facilitators, civil society and countries. Member States are invited to take the necessary action required for the preparations of the overall review of WSIS.
   2. The WSIS+20 Forum High-level Event is scheduled for 27-31 May 2024 in Geneva, and will be hosted by Switzerland. It will serve as a platform for the WSIS+20 review and will enable multistakeholder discussions on progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes under the mandates of the participating agencies. The event will also take stock of achievements in the last 20 years based on reports from WSIS stakeholders, including countries, action line facilitators and others.
   3. Following the instructions of the Plenipotentiary Conference in Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), the ITU Secretary-General is coordinating with relevant United Nations organizations, where appropriate, implementation of ITU's WSIS+20 roadmap for the preparations for and conducting of the WSIS+20 review process and the WSIS process beyond 2025, consistent with UNGA's WSIS+20 preparatory process.
   4. The Secretary-General is taking the necessary steps to engage all Member States in preparing for the overall review of WSIS outcome implementation, including designing the mechanism for reporting on implementation.
   5. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNDP, UNCSTD, UNDESA and other UN agencies, the WSIS+20 review process is expected to be a multistakeholder process conducted in multiple phases, with on-site and physical consultations. The aim of this review process would be to develop consensus text on the vision of WSIS beyond 2025, ideally to be endorsed during the high-level meeting during UNGA 2025.
   6. As a multistakeholder process, WSIS has stood the test of time, and the WSIS+20 review process is expected to provide a guidance framework for all stakeholders, based on the WSIS outcome documents, for addressing opportunities and challenges posed by the current digital landscape, having regard to the strategic goals of the Union, i.e. universal connectivity and sustainable digital transformation.
   7. In addition, the secretariat is contributing to the global digital governance processes, such as the GDC and the 2030 Agenda, to ensure synergy and coherence throughout the WSIS+20 review process.
4. **WSIS contributions to other UN processes and the 2030 Agenda**

WSIS has contributed to other United Nations conferences and processes. The UNGIS/WSIS side event “[WSIS Cooperation for Accelerating Progress on the SDGs](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/en/Agenda/Session/131)”took place at theECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023. At the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD61), special sessions were held on“[Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Older Persons: Healthy Ageing in a Digital World](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/132)” andon “[Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Accessibility: Towards Building Inclusive Digital Communities](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/133)”.During thefifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5), a WSIS/UNGIS side event was delivered on “[ICTs for accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) – from potential to prosperity](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/346)”. AWSIS Gender Trendsetters side event on “[ICTs for Gender Inclusion](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2023/Agenda/Session/358)” was held at the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

1. **ITU’s activities in relation to the 2030 Agenda** 
   1. In line with Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C19), and taking into account the overall mandate of ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the [roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en) remains a living document guiding ITU actions to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Following the roadmap and membership guidance in CWG-WSIS&SDG, a series of actions have been implemented.
   2. The Secretary-General reported on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the four-year report on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union between April 2018 and June 2022, (document [PP-22/20](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0020/en); information from this report has been integrated in the [ITU SDG mapping tool](http://itu-sdg-mapping-tool.azurewebsites.net/#/home)), the one-year report for the period July 2022 to April 2023 (document [C23/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0035/en)), and the annual information document to Council on collaboration with the United Nations system (document [C22/INF/2-E](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0002/en)). ITU’s activities contributing to the 2030 Agenda are also reflected in the operational plan for the Union for 2023 (document [C22/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0028/en), adopted by Council [Resolution 1407](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-C-0094/en) (C22)), and the draft four-year rolling operational plan for the Union for 2024-2027 (document [C23/28](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0028/en)).

5.4. The contributions of the three Sectors to implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda are outlined in the respective resolutions: [Resolution 61-2](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-2-2019) (Rev. Sharm el-Sheikh, 2019) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, [Resolution 75](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-RES-T.75-2022) (Rev. Geneva, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, and [Resolution 30](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/18/wtdc21/c/D18-WTDC21-C-0103%21R1%21PDF-E.pdf) (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

5.5. Further reporting on the contribution of ITU to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is available on ITU’s dedicated website on the [Connect 2030 Agenda](https://www.itu.int/highlights-report-activities/connect2030/). ITU activities contributing to the 2030 Agenda are also reflected in the [strategic framework set out in the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027](https://www.itu.int/en/council/planning/Pages/default.aspx#:~:text=%E2%80%8BITU%20will%20work%20to,for%20the%20benefit%20of%20all.), supporting ITU's realization of its mission and role in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the 2030 Agenda.

**6. Global follow-up and review: High-level Political Forum**

ITU continues to participate in HLPFs held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at UN Headquarters in New York every July, and at the SDG Summits held every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly (the first was held in 2019 and the next is scheduled for September 2023). Inputs from the ITU Council to the HLPFs are available on the [CWG-WSIS&SDG website](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx) and the [UN HLPF website](https://hlpf.un.org/inputs?f%5B0%5D=type%3AIntergovernmental%20forums%20and%20bodies). At each HLPF, ITU engages through side events, delivering statements in thematic sessions and providing inputs to briefing notes through the inter-agency consultative process.

**7. Inputs to the Global Digital Compact**

The processes relating to Our Common Agenda and especially the Global Digital Compact are complementary to the WSIS framework. ITU works to avoid duplication of existing multistakeholder processes and to foster synergies between the WSIS+20 process and the preparations for the Summit of the Future and the GDC. Contributions to the GDC process can be found here: [ITU’s contribution to the GDC,](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_ITU.pdf" \o "https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/gdc-submission_itu.pdf" \t "_blank) [WSIS Forum’s contribution to the GDC.](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/GDC-submission_WSIS.pdf" \o "https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/gdc-submission_wsis.pdf" \t "_blank)

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