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| Contribution from the Czech Republic, and: Germany (Federal Republic of), Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria (Republic of), Cyprus (Republic of), Croatia (Republic of), Denmark, Spain, Estonia (Republic of), Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Israel (State of), Italy, Latvia (Republic of), Liechtenstein (Principality of), Lithuania (Republic of), Luxembourg, North Macedonia (Republic of), Malta, Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Peru, Poland (Republic of), Portugal, Slovak Republic, Romania, Serbia (Republic of), Slovenia (Republic of), and Sweden | |
| HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT TECHNOLOGIES WITHIN THE HUMAN-CENTRIC VISION OF THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution presents an opinion of a group of Member States, which see a possible great potential of telecommunications/ICTs available if the Union contribute to the digital transformation that puts humans at the centre, as mentioned also within the broadly supported policy statement at the 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest.  The contribution is bound to the Plenary agenda item 2.3 on dealing with the standard developing processes around the UN system and other international intergovernmental processes. In addition, the ITU itself has released its report, where in the point 5 it proposes an enhanced cooperation with OHCHR as well as other standard developing organisations.  **Action required by the Council**  The ITU Council is invited **to note** this contribution.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  Document [C23/49](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0049/en) | |

At the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 in Bucharest 57 countries expressed a political willingness that the ITU adopt a human rights-based approach to the whole life cycle of telecommunication/ICT technologies as part of a human-centric vision of the digital transformation, especially to international standard setting processes.

We praise the ITU leadership for a forthcoming approach on this matter including through a close cooperation with sister organisations, ISO, IEC as well as the OHCHR.

We have observed with satisfaction the seriousness with which ITU, ISO and IEC intend to respond to the challenges posed by the rapid advances in the field of artificial intelligence, highlighting the role of standards for responsible, safe, and trustworthy AI development in telecommunications/ICTs.

As telecommunications/ICTs continue to expand and develop at a tremendous pace, we believe that we can collectively untap their great potential only if the Union contribute to the digital transformation that puts humans at the centre, in particular those belonging to groups in situations of vulnerability, empowers individuals and provides meaningful connectivity.

We would therefore welcome the ITU developing concrete working methods in the specific Union’s bodies in order to ensure that human rights are taken into account when developing digital standards and policies, and presenting it to the next Council. We stand ready to assist in this regard.

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