|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C24/55-E** |
| **6 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING ON STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT | |
| **Purpose**  This report presents some highlights of ITU’s contributions to and engagement in major United Nations conferences, processes and workstreams on digital themes, including aspects of the United Nations Secretary-General’s report “Our Common Agenda”. A more comprehensive description is found in the information document on collaboration with the United Nations system.  **Action required by the Council**  The ITU Council is invited to **note** this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Partnerships and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Documents* [*C08/INF/8*](http://www.itu.int/md/S08-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C11/INF/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-INF-0006/en)*,* [*C12/INF/1(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-CL-INF-0001/en)*,* [*C13/INF/10*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0010/en)*,* [*C14/INF/7*](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-INF-0007/en)*,* [*C15/INF/4*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-INF-0004/en)*,* [*C16/57*](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0057/en)*, and* [*C17/INF/10*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0010/en)*,* [*C18/INF/4*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0004/en)*,* [*C19/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C20/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0003/en)*;* [*C21/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0002/en)*;* [*C22/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0002/en)*;* [*C23/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0008/en)*;* [*C23/INF/9*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0009/en) | |

1. **Introduction**

1.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key means of implementation. As digital technology continues to play an increasingly crucial role in transforming global economic and social activities, maximizing the benefits, and addressing the challenges of the digital agenda have emerged as shared interests and priorities across the entire United Nations (UN) system and have remained a top priority of the UN Secretary-General. This evolution within the UN system has resulted in the emergence of multiple workstreams on digital cooperation, as well as growing attention on digital issues in major UN conferences and processes.

1.2 As the UN specialized agency for ICTs, ITU actively collaborates and engages with, and participates in, various processes, mechanisms, and coordination networks within the UN system, in addition to making contributions to various joint or inter-agency initiatives. Furthermore, in leveraging its expertise and extensive experience in telecommunications/ ICTs, ITU demonstrates proactive leadership in addressing digital subjects and the digital agenda, including but not limited to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), within the framework of the UN system.

1. **Our Common Agenda**

2.1 ITU is contributing to both UN Member States’ and inter-agency efforts to follow up on the UN Secretary-General’s report “[Our Common Agenda (OCA)](https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf)”, which was presented to the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in September 2021. In response to UNGA [Resolution 75/1](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiWlZD7rdiFAxVS_7sIHaz0CRoQFnoECBIQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fundocs.org%2FA%2FRES%2F75%2F1&usg=AOvVaw2EaceNcGwuxpvYh9G6yKYy&opi=89978449), on the declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the OCA report includes proposals for, *inter alia*, a Global Digital Compact and a Summit of the Future with a possible digital track, as well as many other proposals with a digital dimension, including on transforming education, outer space and a United Nations 2.0.

2.2 **Summit of the Future:** Preparations for [the Summit of the Future](https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/summit-of-the-future) are currently underway at the UN General Assembly. Scheduled for 22-23 September 2024, this Summit aims to forge a new global consensus on multilateral solutions. According to the UN Resolution on Modalities for the Summit of the Future ([A/RES/76/307](https://undocs.org/A/RES/76/307)), the Summit will adopt an outcome document entitled ‘[A Pact for the Future](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future-zero-draft)’. The co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia to the UN in New York, are tasked with facilitating intergovernmental consultations to determine the Summit’s scope, topic, interactive dialogues, and negotiations process for the outcome document, with adequate time for the negotiating sessions.

2.3 On 26 January 2024, following their reappointment as co-facilitators for the Summit of the Future during the 78th session of the UNGA, Germany and Namibia unveiled [the Zero Draft for the Pact for the Future](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-co-facilitators-zero-draft_pact-for-the-future.pdf), alongside [a roadmap the preparatory process](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-co-facs_ms-letter_zero-draft-presentation.pdf). The Zero draft addresses ‘digital issues’ in the Chapeau and two subsequent chapters on ‘International peace and security’ as well as ‘Science, technology, innovation and digital cooperation’. The Zero draft underwent intergovernmental negotiation, during which Member States were invited to submit written inputs by 12 February. The result is a compilation document of the Zero Draft spanning 242 pages. As of 25 April, the first and second readings concluded, resulting in a compilation text of the Pact for the Future. An additional consultation on the Pact was held on 17 April ([letter](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-cso-letter-post-2nd-reading.pdf)), followed by the upcoming [UN Civil Society Conference](https://www.un.org/en/civilsociety/2024uncsc), scheduled for 9 and 10 May in Nairobi.

2.4 **Global Digital Compact:** In parallel, the co-facilitators for the Global Digital Compact (GDC), the Permanent Representatives of Sweden and Zambia to the UN in New York, were reappointed and newly appointed respectively for the 78th session of the UNGA. The assessment resulting from deep-dives and broader consultations conducted during the 77th session of the UNGA by the former co-facilitators for the GDC (the Permanent Representatives of Sweden and Rwanda to the UN in New York) was reported in [their Issues Paper to the UN General Assembly](https://www.un.org/pga/77/wp-content/uploads/sites/105/2023/09/Global-Digital-Compact-Issues-paper-September-1-2023.pdf), in September 2023. In this Paper, the co-facilitators highlighted broad support for a GDC based on the principles of the UN Charter, Agenda 2030, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. They emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to strengthen digital cooperation, close the digital divide and ensure an inclusive open, safe and secure digital future for all. Recognizing the roles of various UN agencies and forums, including ITU and WSIS, they stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of existing processes.

2.5 In December 2023, the GDC co-facilitators released [a new roadmap](https://www.un.org/techenvoy/sites/www.un.org.techenvoy/files/Co-facs_letter_Global_Digital_Compact_December_15.pdf) for additional rounds of the consultations on GDC, followed by the deadline for written input submissions on 8 March, and for the intergovernmental negotiation process scheduled for the early months of 2024. Throughout the consultations, among other things, human rights, gender equality, digital accessibility, and the development dimension were key focuses. At the same time, many countries and stakeholders, including the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS, [statements](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/)), underscored the significance of WSIS and advocated for strengthening existing UN institutions and processes for the GDC follow-up. They also stressed multistakeholderism, civil society involvement, and youth engagement. Recommendations centered on Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance, digital rights, trust and safety, data governance, and digital infrastructure access, all with a priority on human rights and digital literacy.

2.6 Subsequently, on 1 April 2024, [the Zero Draft of the GDC](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-global-digital-compact-zero-draft.pdf) was released by the GDC Co-facilitators ([letter](https://www.un.org/pga/78/2024/04/01/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-global-digital-compact-zero-draft/)), ahead of its presentation to Member States on 5 April. Serving as a framework for intergovernmental negotiation, the Zero Draft outlines five main objectives and ten principles aimed at achieving an inclusive, open, safe, and secure digital future. The Zero Draft outlines Member States’ commitments to key objectives like bridging digital divides and promoting inclusive digital economies. It proposes new UN mechanisms, such as a Digital Human Rights Advisory Service, an International Scientific Panel on AI, an Annual Global Dialogue on AI, and a Global Fund for AI. For follow-up and review, it suggests establishing a new dedicated UN office for digital coordination, with the UN Secretary-General tasked to submit operational proposals and provide a GDC implementation roadmap within 12 months. In addition, a bi-annual High-Level Review of the Global Digital Compact is also proposed (more details in [C23/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0008/en)).

2.7 ITU, responding to Member States’ strong recommendations during the Council Working Group on the Strategic and Financial Plans (CWG-SFP) and the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society and Sustainable Development Goals (CWG-WSIS&SDGs), is closely collaborating with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General and other UN agencies on digital cooperation and other digital and outer space issues in Our Common Agenda (OCA). Among the proposals contained in OCA, ITU has been following up around fifteen that particularly relate to universal connectivity and digital transformation, including those on a Global Digital Compact (GDC), outer space, Transforming Education, as well as the discussions at the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism and overall preparations for the Summit of the Future.

2.8 ITU places great emphasis on the critical role of ICTs for sustainable development while minimizing potential risks. Our messages to the GDC processes have been based on discussions held during key ITU events, e.g., the consultations during the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) and the Ministerial Roundtable in Bucharest, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) in Kigali, WSIS Forum 2023 in Geneva, as well as the outcomes of the last World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) and relevant PP Resolutions. ITU’s inputs for future digital technology development are, for example but not limited to, promoting connectivity for all people and all schools worldwide to the Internet, based on future-oriented policies and collaborative regulatory frameworks ensuring availability and inclusiveness. The ITU Secretary-General also made a statement to the Ministerial for the Summit of the Future on 21 September 2023 at UN Headquarters in New York during the UNGA High-Level Week.

2.9 **Artificial Intelligence:** One area that Member States might decide to include in the GDC and/or in the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and Digital cooperation chapter of the Pact for the Future relates to Artificial Intelligence. The UN Secretary-General [announced](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2023-10-26/secretary-generals-advisory-body-members-artificial-intelligence) the establishment of an AI Advisory Body (AIAB) on 23 October 2023 to advise on risks, opportunities and international governance of artificial intelligence. The ITU Secretary-General was invited to speak at the press conference for the launch of the AIAB. The AIAB’s preliminary recommendations were made public at the end of 2023, with final recommendations due by summer 2024, ahead of the Summit of the Future. ITU has not to date been invited to attend meetings of the AIAB. ITU hosted the AIAB members for a working lunch discussion on 11 March 2024 to update them on ITU’s efforts in AI. ITU has been approached to organize or participate in deep dives on certain topics (e.g. standards, gender) for informing the AIAB members (more details in [C24/67](http://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0067/en)).

2.10 A “[[UN System White Paper on AI Governance: An analysis of the UN system’s institutional models, functions, and existing international normative frameworks applicable to AI governance](https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-white-paper-ai-governance)](https://unsceb.org/united-nations-system-white-paper-ai-governance)” was developed by the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (IAWG-AI), co-led by ITU and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), comprising of over 40 UN System entities. This paper was developed in response to a request from the Joint Session of the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) for the development of a white paper on current institutional models and related functions and existing international normative frameworks in the UN system that could be applied or leveraged for international AI governance. The White Paper has been approved by the HLCP and endorsed by the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB)., for consideration by HLCP at its 47th session. This paper is intended to inform UN System deliberations on AI and is also a UN System-wide contribution to the Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Body on AI.

2.11 **Outer space:** The OCA report calls for a multistakeholder dialogue on outer space, as part of the Summit of the Future, seeking high-level political agreement on the peaceful, secure and sustainable use of outer space, the move towards a global regime to coordinate space traffic and principles for the future governance of outer space activities. Following the release of [the UN Secretary-General’s Policy Brief on Outer Space](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.un.org%2Fsites%2Fun2.un.org%2Ffiles%2Four-common-agenda-policy-brief-outer-space-en.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJeoungHee.Kim%40itu.int%7Cfd7d58469da34b1c724e08dc3dceaa84%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638453205039395201%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dScZqlqS9SYidjs%2F6xzw0Z9HigShzbIg%2FbJssfgDn58%3D&reserved=0), mentioning the ITU on multiple times as an organization capable of facilitating international cooperation on outer space sustainability issues, the Radiocommunication Assembly, in November 2023, in Dubai, adopted the ITU-R Resolution 74 on Activities related to the sustainable use of radio-frequency spectrum and associated satellite-orbit resources used by space services. The ITU Radiocommunication Sector and the Radiocommunication Bureau are invited and instructed to develop a Handbook on best practices, new Recommendation on deorbit and/or disposal strategies and methodologies for non-GSO space stations, to create a [compendium of links](https://www.itu.int/space-sustainability/) from the main ITU-R website, and to collaborate and exchange information with other UN organizations dealing with space activities.

2.12 **High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism:** Another major OCA proposal pertains to [the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB)](https://highleveladvisoryboard.org/breakthrough/), on which ITU is also actively following up. In April 2023, HLAB published its report “[A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future](https://www.highleveladvisoryboard.org/breakthrough/pdf/56892_UNU_HLAB_report_Final_LOWRES.pdf)”, outlining a plan to strengthen global architecture for peace, security and finance, deliver just transition for climate and digitalization, and ensure more equity and fairness in global decision-making. Notably, it includes a chapter on digital and data governance, which advocates for a just digital transition that maximizes the value of data while safeguarding against digital harm.

2.13 In the lead up to **the Summit of the Future 2024**, ITU is closely monitoring the preparatory process guided by the co-facilitators under the auspices of the 78th session of the UNGA and is supporting and contributing to it consistent with our mandate. As a specialized UN agency based in Geneva, ITU is also providing information on its activities and mandate to the Geneva diplomatic community, including through initiatives such as ITU Secretary-General’s demystifying breakfast on GDC with the co-facilitators of Sweden and Zambia, and an UNGIS meeting with the co-facilitators, and extending invitations to the co-facilitators for the Summit of the Future and the co-facilitators for the GDC to present in ITU CWG-WSIS&SDGs meetings, among other engagements. In July 2023, the UN Secretary-General’s lead for Our Common Agenda, Guy Ryder, Under-Secretary-General for Policy, spoke at the ITU Council Retreat.

2.14 The High-Level WSIS Forum in May 2024 and its outcome could contribute to the Summit of the Future process, and the High Level WSIS Forum in 2025 could support implementations of the digital aspects of the Pact for the Future once adopted. ITU is also exploring co-hosting with other UN agencies a side event before the Summit of the Future in September 2024, as a contribution to it. It is not known at this stage what opportunities there may be for UN agencies to make remarks at the Summit of the Future itself.

2.15 As strongly suggested by Member States during the Council Working Group on CWG-SFP and Council Working Group on WSIS&SDGs, ITU has worked, and will continue to work, very closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET) and other United Nations agencies on the acceleration of digital cooperation and digital issues in the OCA report and in support of Member States in the lead-up to the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

1. **LLDCs and SIDS conferences and processes**

3.1 [The fourth international conference on S](https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/sids2024)mall Islands Developing States (SIDS), themed ‘Charting a course towards resilient prosperity’ is scheduled to take place in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024. With the conclusion of the implementation of the ten-year program action of the SAMOA Pathway, this conference will adopt the next ten-year program of action for the SIDS following negotiation among Member States. ITU plans to participate to ensure that universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation continues to support socio-economic development in the SIDS.

3.2 [The third International Conference on Landlocked Countries](https://www.un.org/en/landlocked/about-third-un-conference-lldcs), themed ‘Driving progress through Partnerships’ was initially scheduled for 18-22 June 2024, in Kigali, Rwanda. However, this has now been postponed and the new dates will be updated when available.

3.3 ITU’s contribution to SDIS4 include:

* Two special editions of the flagship ‘Measuring Digital Development – Facts and Figures’ providing a thorough analysis of digital connectivity and regulation in SIDS and LLDCs. The reports were launched in March and April 2024 respectively, available [here](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/ldcs/?lang=en).
* Participation in the official programme, in particular in High-Level Interactive Dialogue 4: Leveraging data and digital technologies and building effective institutions for a resilient future in small island developing States.
* A series of side events at the conference including on universal and meaningful connectivity, digital transformation and Early Warning for All. More information is available on the [dedicated ITU website](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/ldcs/2024/02/20/itu-at-sids4/).
* the [Partner2Connect gathering during PrepComm 2 Meeting in New York](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/p2c-at-sids-4-conference/) on 2 April. During the conference, ITU will also highlight pledges made through [Partner2Connect](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/) that will be implemented in SIDS.

1. **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

[The 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)](https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women) took place from 11 to 24 March 2024, in New York, focusing on addressing poverty and financing from a gender perspective. Following CSW67 in 2023, which focused for the first time on innovation, technological change, and education in the digital age, there has been an increased interest in addressing digital issues. The outcome document from CSW68 includes 27 references to digital topics, encompassing areas such as the digital divide, digital skills and education, the digital economy, and digital financial inclusion. ITU has been actively involved in the commission’s efforts to bridge the digital divide and enhance digital inclusion. This year, through the EQUALS initiative, ITU, in collaboration with partners, launched the Gender Transformative Digital Skills Education Framework, a pioneering educational model aimed at providing digital skills to all stakeholders.

1. **Green Digital Action**

ITU, together with over 40 partners across the UN system, governments, business, and civil society, convened the Green Digital Action track at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Green Digital Action is an initiative bringing the ICT community together to mobilize and launch new commitments and bold action to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions by governments, business, civil society and others, and to catalyse opportunities for partnerships and broader coordination of resources in collaboration with key existing mechanisms, such as the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability, the United Nations Early Warnings For All initiative and the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition. ITU continues to engage with the UNFCCC and COP host countries with the objective to position digital as a key theme on the climate agenda.

1. **Joint SDG Fund**

The Joint SDG Fund is an inter-agency pooled mechanism for integrated policy support and strategic financing. ITU, together with UNDP, has served as coordinator of Technical Support Group for the Digital Transformation Window. This included facilitating the process to award 23 grants in the first round of funding valued at 30M Euro. The Deputy Secretary-General also serves on the Operational Steering Committee of the Joint SDG Fund. ITU’s involvement in the Fund has enabled ITU to contribute to harnessing digital connectivity and sustainable digital transformation for sustainable development within the broader UN system.

1. **High Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure**

Launched at the SDG Acceleration Day in September 2023, ITU and UNDP co-lead the High Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure. The overall aim of the initiative is to scale inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs. By 2030, the High Impact Initiative on DPI aims to catalyse the collective action necessary, working with leaders and scalable models to unlock targeted support for DPI implementation and strengthening in 100 countries by ensuring that DPI is safe, accessible, affordable, green, financed, and future-ready. The focus areas of the initiative are on: Universal safeguards; Innovations for Last-Mile Inclusion; Affordable & Open; Sustainable and Green; Financing DPI for Sustainable Development. For 2024, plans are underway to convene, together with UNDP and other key organizations in the DPI space, a Global DPI Summit.

1. **SDG Digital 2024**

Last year on the occasion of the UN SDG Summit and the UN General Assembly, ITU, UNDP, and partners made history by strategically positioning digital technologies at the forefront of the discussions for sustainable development at the SDG Digital event, highlighting how digital advancements can propel progress in a 70% of the 169 SDG targets. SDG Digital will be back in 2024 around the UN General Assembly and the Summit of the Future to showcase to the world the transformative potential of digital technologies in forging a better and more inclusive future for all.

1. **G7 and G20**

9.1 ITU participates in G7 and G20 meetings at the Ministerial and technical level (Working Group).

9.2 The ITU Secretary-General attended the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers Meeting in Verona in March 2024. ITU’s work was acknowledged in the Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration also sets out continued cooperation with ITU towards secure and resilient digital infrastructure in developing countries.

9.3 At the G20, ITU has been invited by the Brazilian Presidency as a Knowledge Partner for the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG). As a Knowledge Partner for DEWG, ITU has been a lead contributor towards the presidency’s efforts related to the workstream relating to Digital Inclusion/Universal and Meaningful Connectivity and is also actively contributing to the workstreams on Digital Government, Digital Identity and Data Governance, Integrity of Information Online and Trust in the Digital Economy, and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development and Inequalities Reduction. In this context, ITU has launched the Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative, in collaboration with the international and regional development finance institutions, to identify innovative financing mechanisms and instruments that international organizations and private or public plurilateral/multilateral financing institutions can implement to accelerate our reaching the target of universal and meaningful connectivity by 2030. ITU anticipates that the key findings from this initiative can also help inform the development of innovative financing mechanisms and incentives as per the Global Digital Compact Zero Draft. The ITU Secretary-General will be attending the Ministerial Meeting for the DEWG in September 2024.

1. **Human rights and Technology**

10.1 On 24 February 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Volker Türk, explained the importance of taking human rights into account in technical standards at a high-level [meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-230530-TD-GEN-0213) at the World Standards Cooperation (WSC). The ITU Council discussed this subject as well in its July 2023 [meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0074/en) and was informed of the report by OHCHR ([C23/INF/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0015/en)) about human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging digital technologies.

10.2 Additionally, the ITU Secretary-General [moderated](https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1d/k1diw7g1wv) the roundtable “The Future of Human Rights and Digital Technologies” during the Human Rights 75 – High-level Event organized by OHCHR on 11 December 2023. This roundtable delved into how to ensure that human rights are central to the way tech is developed, used, and governed, including through recent UN initiatives.

10.3 Moreover, as reported to TDAG, ITU-T has been pursuing a number of activities on human rights and standards.

**11.** **Standards Development and related activities**

11.1 The Radiocommunication Bureau’s (BR) work with regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) is an integral part of global preparations for World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and supports capacity-building within the regions. In coordination with ITU Regional Offices, BR collaborates with RTOs on the delivery of capacity-building events (e.g. workshops and seminars) for the ITU membership in their region. The RTOs coordinate the development of common proposals (aka regional proposals) from their Member States to the WRC. Also, the RTOs actively facilitate consensus-building between and amongst regions and facilitate consensus-building and decision-making at WRCs.

11.2 The Intergovernmental Organizations (e.g. IALA, IATA, IMSO, BIPM) participate in the ITU-R Study Groups to prepare for world radiocommunication conferences and in an advisory capacity at WRCs to resolve agenda items that impact the achievement of their mandates.

11.3 In the areas of standards development, ITU-R cooperates with several SDOs towards the development of international standards in the field of Radiocommunication mobile technologies (e.g. 4G, 5G, and future 6G standards) as well as standards for Intelligent Transport Systems.

11.4 The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau’s (TSB) collaborates extensively with UN entities, including with UN-Habitat and other 17 UN entities on smart sustainable cities, UNICC and other 19 UN entities on metaverse and virtual worlds, WHO and WIPO on AI for health, FAO on IoT and AI for digital agriculture, WMO and UNEP on AI for natural disaster management and smart submarine cables, UNECE on Intelligent Transport Systems and Autonomous Driving, UNIDO, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on E-waste and Circular Economy, UNFCCC on Climate Actions as well as with other UN entities on areas, such as human rights, energy efficiency, counterfeiting and more. More details can be found in Document [C24/67](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0067/en).

11.5 ITU collaborates with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) within the framework of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC). This high-level collaboration aims to promote international standards globally and address any technical cooperation issues among the three world-leading standards developing organizations.

**12. Conclusion**

12.1 The digital agenda has continued to expand at UN headquarters in New York and throughout the entire UN system. A survey conducted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and OSET in early 2022 identified more than 500 digital initiatives across the United Nations, a number that has likely increased since then. Moreover, digital themes are increasingly prominent in major United Nations conferences, as well as in Secretary-General reports, resolutions, and outcome documents.

12.2 This report has highlighted ITU’s recent contributions and engagement in some key UN conferences, processes, and workstreams. For more detailed information, please refer to [C24/INF/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-INF-0009/en). Given that 2024 is a critical year for the UN, particularly with the Global Digital Compact being negotiated and the Summit of the Future approaching, many discussions and agreements on crucial digital agenda items by Member States are underway. ITU’s involvement and collaborative efforts within the UN framework will continue to correspond to the increasing demand in this domain.

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