|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C24/69-E** |
| **6 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| STATUS REPORT ON ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PALESTINE | |
| **Purpose**  This document reports on the implementation of the following resolutions: Resolution 125 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks, Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development on Special technical assistance to Palestine, and Resolution 12 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the World Radiocommunication Conference on the Assistance and support to Palestine.  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **note** this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Provision of Technical Assistance.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 99 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2022)*,* [*Resolution 125 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](http://www.itu.int/pub/S-CONF-ACTF-2022)*,* [*Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-TDC-WTDC)*,* [*Resolution 12 (REV. WRC-23)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/opb/act/r-act-wrc.16-2024-pdf-e.pdf) | |

# Background

This document reports on the implementation of the following resolutions:

* Resolution 125 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on Assistance and support to Palestine for rebuilding its telecommunication networks, instructing the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on progress made in implementing this resolution.
* Resolution 18 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development on Special technical assistance to Palestine, instructing the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau to report to the ITU Council with an annual report on the progress made in implementing this resolution (and similar resolutions) and the mechanisms employed to deal with the increasing difficulties arising.
* Resolution 12 (Rev. Dubai, 2023) of the World Radiocommunication Conference on the Assistance and support to Palestine, instructing the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on progress made in implementing this resolution.

**Actions taken by ITU**

The ITU has been working over the past year on the implementation of these resolutions. In particular, the following issues have been addressed:

1. Initiatives related to implementing PP 125: Assistance and support to Palestine for infrastructure development.

To enhance the school connectivity and as part of ITU-UNICEF GIGA accelerate program in Palestine, 76 schools in West Bank have been connected to the internet using innovative technologies and business models to connect these marginalized schools, in close coordination with both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of telecommunications and IT.

1. Initiatives related to implementing WTDC Resolution 18: Special technical assistance to Palestine.

BDT has successfully completed and implemented various projects and activities in response to the implementation of WTDC Resolution 18, aimed at providing special technical assistance to Palestine. These initiatives include:

Enabling Regulatory Environment:

* Analyse and produce a recommendation report on the ICT market in Palestine.
* Developed relevant cost models serving as a guide for regulatory decisions related wholesale and retail prices for mobile and fixed services.
* Developed the price regulation framework for regulating wholesale and retail services for mobile and fixed services.
* As part of ITU’s Connect to Recover (C2R) initiative, assistance was provided including:
  + 1. Development of a National Numbering Framework.
    2. Formulation of National Numbering Regulations.

Digital Infrastructure:

Palestine has been selected one of the beneficiary countries of ITU IPv6 and IoT Expertise Center project. Support and guidance on IPv6 and IoT were extended throughout the period spanning 2022 to 2023. This assistance included the following activities:

* Developed a national IPv6 transition strategy, accompanied by assistance in establishing the Palestinian national IPv6 task force.
* Conducted multiple capacity development programs focused on IPv6 and IoT were conducted, resulting in the training and certification of more than three staff members as engineers proficient in IPv6 and IoT technologies.

Emergency Telecommunications

* Provided assistance in developing a National Emergency Telecommunications Plan (NETP) for Palestine in 2023.
* ITU has been actively participating in the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) task force lead by WFP, supporting and providing technical assistance related to connectivity during the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Cyber Security:

* Provided support to establish the Palestinian Computer Incident Response Team (Pal CIRT)

1. Initiatives related to implementing WRC Resolution 12

In October 2023, under Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19), the ITU’s Radiocommunication Bureau, in close coordination with the ITU’s Regional Office for the Arab States, reviewed and recommended revisions to the Table of National Frequency Allocations and Applications (TNFAA) of Palestine. The ITU’s review included general comments and explanations, with a specific focus on ensuring conformity with the ITU Radio Regulations, edition 2020. Since this revision of their TNFAA, there have been no requests made to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau for assistance to Palestine.

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Dubai, 2023) approved the modification of Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-19), resolving that Palestine should be empowered to obtain the necessary frequencies for microwave links, essential to the operation of 4G and 5G services, exploit the additional bands needed for new, modern mobile telecommunication networks, such as IMT-2020, to urgently extend, install, own, manage and operate optical fibre broadband telecommunication networks, obtain VHF and UHF frequencies for fixed and mobile telecommunication services, as well as FM frequencies for the broadcasting service.

Resolution 12 (Rev. WRC-23) instructs the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to Council on the progress achieved.

To facilitate achievement of its objectives, the Secretary-General, and the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau have promoted the dialogue between Israel and Palestine towards the implementation of Resolution 12, in particular in advancing the roadmap for Palestine to have access to more frequencies for IMT and broadcasting.

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