|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C24/88-E** |
| **21 May 2024** |
| **Original: English** |
|  |  |
| Contribution by France, Spain, Estonia (Republic of), Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION ON “ITU ROLE IN FACILITATING ICT CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY” | |
| **Purpose**  While the environmental impact of ICTs is the subject of several calls for action, launched notably by the United Nations, the ITU is in a unique position to address these issues, which need to be further formalized at the Council.  To consolidate ITU role in facilitating ICT contribution to climate action and environmental sustainability, we propose a resolution which captures:   * ITU's key role in bringing stakeholders together to build common solutions; * existing ITU initiatives and great potential for further action; * role and responsibility of ICTs stakeholders in the fight against climate change and for environmental sustainability.   **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **adopt** the proposed draft new Council resolution.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Resolutions* [*70/1*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) *and* [*75/231*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=a%2Fres%2F75%2F231&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) *of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA),*  [*Resolution 71*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference,*  [*Resolution 66*](https://www.itu.int/en/publications/ITU-D/pages/publications.aspx?parent=D-TDC-WTDC-2022&media=electronic) *(Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC),*  [*Council Resolution 1353*](https://www.itu.int/md/S12-CL-C-0102/en) *(adopted by the ITU Council at its 2012 session).* | |

draft new resolution [...]

ITU role in facilitating ICT contribution to climate action and environmental sustainability

The ITU Council,

recalling

*a)* Resolution 70/1 of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* UNGA Resolution 75/231, which recognizes the potential benefits for countries to transform their economies to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, by engaging with partners to integrate or implement concepts such as circular economy and Industry 4.0 for more sustainable industrial activity and manufacturing systems, according to national plans and priorities;

*c)* Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027, putting sustainable digital transformation on an equal footing with universal connectivity;

*d)* Resolution 182 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the role of telecommunications/ICTs in regard to climate change and the protection of the environment;

*e)* Resolution 66 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on information and communication technology, environment, climate change and circular economy;

*f)* Resolution 1353, adopted by the ITU Council at its 2012 session, which recognizes that telecommunications/ICTs are essential components for developed and developing countries in achieving sustainable development, and instructs the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Directors of the Bureaus, to identify new activities to be undertaken by ITU to support developing countries in achieving sustainable development through telecommunications/ICTs,

recognizing

*a)* that the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss are among the most pressing issues that humanity faces;

*b)* that limiting global warming requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including reducing global ICT sector carbon dioxide emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 versus 2020 and to net zero by 2050, as well as deep reductions in other GHG;

*c)* the importance of climate change and biodiversity challenges as stressed by the IPCC 1.5-degree Special Report and the IPBES May 2019 Report on the severity of biodiversity loss and damages, and planetary limits assessments;

*d)* that the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report notes that digitalisation can enable emission reductions, but can have adverse side effects unless appropriately governed;

*e)* that other environmental impacts associated with use of ICTs are worth considering, in particular the amount of biotic and abiotic resources (fossil energy sources and minerals) needed by manufacturers of devices and network equipment,

considering

*a)* the outcomes of conferences under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the Paris Agreement of COP21 which sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting at that time global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, the Glasgow Climate Pact of COP26, which reiterates the urgency of scaling up action to limit the impact of climate change and the Dubai COP 28 Global Stocktake agreement which calls on Parties to take actions towards achieving, at a global scale, a tripling of renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030;

*b)* the Lisbon Declaration adopted in 2022 at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions”, with the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders, reaffirm our strong commitment to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources;

*c)* that ITU through its role in the United Nations system and diverse membership is uniquely positioned to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to boost ICT sector climate ambition and environmental sustainability activities;

*d)* that more data is required to fully assess progress towards ITU Target 2.5 for the Union's Connect 2030 Agenda outlined in Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027: Significant improvement of ICTs' contribution to climate and environment action,

resolves

1 to encourage the efforts being made by the ITU Sectors and ITU secretariat (General Secretariat and the three Bureaux) aimed at mitigating negative environmental impacts of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs including existing solutions, and boosting the ambition of the telecommunication/ICT community in helping fight the triple planetary crisis, including through the Green Digital Action initiative to strengthen intersectoral coordination on such efforts;

2 to encourage ITU Sectors and ITU secretariat to develop knowledge on the environmental footprint of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs, building on and leveraging the Sector’s climate and environmental activities and outputs, while supporting innovation into eco-design and digital sobriety;

3 to welcome the upcoming activities by ITU to increase transparency, track GHG emissions and energy use from the ICT industry for the purpose of assessing ICT effects on climate change;

4 to invite ITU to track the usage of biotic and abiotic resources (fossil energy sources, minerals and water) from the ICT industry for the purpose of assess their environmental impact among their life cycle;

5 to support ITU efforts to continuously align with the United Nations' 2020-2030 Strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system,

instructs the Secretary-General in collaboration with the Directors of the three Bureaux

1 to raise ambition for green digital action bringing together key stakeholders to advance bold, practical, and ambitious solutions for the climate across the telecommunication/ICT community;

2 to work closely together to leverage and scale ITU activities related to climate change and environmental sustainability, including under the Green Digital Action umbrella, bringing together key stakeholders to advance bold, practical, and ambitious solutions for the climate and for environmental sustainability across the telecommunication/ICT community, and piloting an ITU-wide green digital fund for voluntary contributions;

3 to promote the adoption of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs across economic sectors that enhance their environmental sustainability. The environmental efficiency of these solutions should be monitored, based on KPIs, evaluation and measurement methodologies as recommended by ITU-T to gain further knowledge on the enablement effect of new and emerging telecommunications/ICTs;

4 to undertake necessary actions directed towards the involvement of all ITU membership in the implementation of this resolution, and to support ITU Member States in building capacity for collecting, aggregating, and assessing climate related data;

5 to collaborate closely with other United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders in this regard; particularly by liaising with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Presidencies of the COPs;

6 to report to Council on the implementation of this resolution,

invites Member States

1 to identify the relevant custodians at the national level for the issue of greenhouse gas emissions monitoring, reporting and enforcement for the ICT sector;

2 to ensure meeting sustainability targets become an objective of telecommunications regulation in their national legislation;

3 to give the mandate to competent authorities to collect environmental data;

4 to recognize the need for transparency and data collection on ICT sector emissions and energy use to align with national climate targets and to monitor progress;

5 to recognize the need of transparency and data collection on ICT products and technologies usage of biotic and abiotic resources along their life cycle;

6 to recognize the need for increased capacity building to support the process of collecting, aggregating, and assessing the data;

7 to work towards a reduction of the environmental footprint of ICT sector,

invites Members States, Sector Members and Associates

1 to raise ambition on digital climate action, by playing an active role in the implementation of this resolution;

2 to support and participate actively in the Bureaus activities on climate change, environmental sustainability and the intersectoral Green Digital Action initiative; particularly by providing environmental data and forward it to ITU in order to establish and maintain an ITU databases;

3 to adopt and implement ITU recommendations to tackle environmental challenges such as climate-change adaptation and mitigation, as well as e-waste and to promote smart sustainable cities and communities.

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