|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/7-E** |
| **30 August 2024** |
| **English only** |
|  |  |
| Report by the secretariat |
| REGIONAL ACTIVITIES TOWARDS ALIGNMENT OF WSIS AND SDG PROCESSES |
| PurposeThe document provides and update on the implementation of the WSIS process at the regional level in 2024 in collaboration with the ITU Regional Offices, UN Regional Commissions, and other regional bodies. Action requiredThe Council Working Group on WSIS and SDGs is invited to note the document and consider regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_References[*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*; UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/70/125*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F125&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*A/71/212,*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F71%2F212&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)[*A/70/299*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F299&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*A/70/684*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F70%2F684&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*A/RES/73/218*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2Fres%2F73%2F218&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*; UN ECOSOC Resolution* [*E/RES/2023/3*](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ecosoc_res_2023d3_en.pdf)*;* [*Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*;* [*Resolution 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* [*Resolution 1332 (Modified 2024)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en)*,* [*Resolution 1334 (Modified 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en)*;* [*WTDC Resolution 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf)*;* [*WTSA Resolution 75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2022)*;* [*Resolution ITU-R 61-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61-3-2023)*; Reports of the CWG-WSIS&SDG meetings* [*33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*,* [*40th*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0008/en)*;* [*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)*;* [*ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024;*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0016/es)*[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 - WSIS+20 Roadmap;](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0047/en)* [*[Reporting on the implementation of the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (including regional initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-PP-C-0047/en)*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Documents/Final_508076_WTDC-Declaration_Layout_En.pdf) |

The WSIS Process at the regional level is coordinated and effectively implemented by the UN Regional Commissions, ITU Regional Offices, Regional Technical Organizations in close collaboration with other UN Agencies and all stakeholders. In line with the General Assembly Resolution [A/70/125](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125), the UN Regional Commissions continue their work in the implementation of WSIS and their contribution to the reviews thereof, including through regional reviews organised in collaboration with ITU and other UN Agencies.

ITU is collaborating closely with UN Regional Commissions and other regional organizations, to enhance regional engagement in the WSIS process by conducting regional WSIS reviews to explore the implementation of WSIS Action Lines to advance the achievement of regional sustainable development goals across different regions. These reviews serve as a platform to assess the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and SDGs at the national and regional levels and provide input towards WSIS review and vision beyond 2025.

Within the context of ITU’s partnerships in the regions, ITU contribute to the [Arab Consultative Conference on WSIS+20 and GDC processes](https://www.unescwa.org/events/arab-consultations-wsis20-review-and-global-digital-compact-processes) on 22 May 2024, co-convened by UN-ESCWA and the League of Arab States, and hosted by the Telecommunication and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) of UAE. Together with the UN Regional Commissions and other UN agencies involved, ITU will be co-organizing the regional WSIS review meetings at the following events:

– [Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP)](https://www.unescap.org/events/2024/asia-pacific-ministerial-conference-digital-inclusion-and-transformation), 4 September 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan

– [Ministerial Conference on the Information Society for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)](https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/ministerial-conference-information-society-latin-america-and-caribbean), 7-8 November 2024, Santiago, Chile

– WSIS+20 Regional Review Meeting 2024 for Africa (ECA), 11-13 September 2024, Victoria falls, Zimbabwe (*TBC*)

– [Eighth session of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Steering Committee and the Regional Review of WSIS (ESCAP)](https://indico.un.org/event/1012668/), 25-26 September 2024, Jeju, Republic of Korea.

UN Regional Commissions actively contribute to the work of UNGIS with UNECLAC serving as vice-chair for the period 2024-2025. The representative of UNECLAC provided a [statement to the GDC consultation](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/ungis/ThematicMeetings) on 22 August 2024, on behalf of UNGIS.

At the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 the [WSIS Regional Commissions meeting](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/479) took place chaired by UNECLAC. Additionally, through the UNGIS sessions [High-Level Roundtable](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/321) and the [Working level meetings](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/320), the representatives from UNESCAP, UNECA, UNECLAC, UNECE, UNESCWA shared their achievements, challenges, and opportunities in implementing digital transformation for sustainable development. They exchanged ideas and proposals on how to accelerate the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and enhance digital cooperation. The [UNESCAP Executive Secretary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pop18KESj6A&list=PLh5wUIxznUUWCQscg4DcIhNZ6WxkZQW6f&index=6), [UNECA Executive Secretary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4DHEroko00&list=PLh5wUIxznUUWCQscg4DcIhNZ6WxkZQW6f&index=7), and [UNECE Executive Secretary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-ndx3_BGE4&list=PLh5wUIxznUUWCQscg4DcIhNZ6WxkZQW6f&index=11) shared spotlights on WSIS while the Executive Secretary of UNECE also contributed onsite to the High-Level session *UN Leaders dialogue on the progress and future of digital cooperation* bringing the UN Regional Commissions regional perspective on digital for development through the WSIS framework.

Through the WSIS Stocktaking and WSIS Prizes, ITU continues to coordinate activities related to promotion of ICT practices from and with the regions. Following the WSIS Stocktaking Regional Reports 2014-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, and 2021-2022, the [new bi-annual regional draft reports covering the period 2023-2024](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Home/Outcomes) were produced and presented at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event in 2024. The intention is to keep reflecting accumulative effort made in the regions of Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and Pacific, CIS, and Europe.

The [ITU Regional Offices](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/Regional-Presence.aspx) are enhancing multistakeholder collaboration to drive the implementation of WSIS at the regional level. The 2022 ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) in Kigali approved new [Regional Initiatives for 2023-2025](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-initiatives-2023-2025.aspx), as outlined in the Kigali Action Plan. These initiatives target the specific needs of each region to accelerate digital transformation, with a focus on sustainable development and creating a resilient, circular information society. Additionally, ITU Regional Offices are actively contributing to the agenda and program development for the annual WSIS Forum, reinforcing their commitment to global digital progress.

The [ITU Regional Development Forums (RDFs)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-development-forums.aspx) continue to serve as a vital platform for annual dialogue between ITU Regional Offices and key decision-makers from Member States and Sector Members. These forums are instrumental in engaging regional stakeholders, fostering partnerships, and collaborating with regional and international organizations as well as UN agencies.

Additionally, ITU Regional Offices actively participate in the UN Regional Forums for Sustainable Development, held annually across six regions. They advocate for the critical role of ICTs in achieving the SDGs and advise on integrating ICTs into UN development frameworks and initiatives led by other UN agencies.

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