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|  | **Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/13** |
| **18 September 2024** |
| **English only** |
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| Contribution from Armenia (Republic of), Belarus (Republic of), the Russian Federation, Tajikistan (Republic of) and Uzbekistan (Republic of) |
| ITU’S PARTICIPATION TO SDG DIGITAL |
| **Purpose**The aim of this contribution is to draw the attention of the ITU Secretary-General to the problematic issue that has already been raised so far, regarding the observed disregard for the WSIS process and the role of ITU in its implementation, as well as the interlinkage between the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the achievement of the SDGs while participating in the organization and holding of events on behalf of ITU related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, accordingly, the achievement of the SDGs.**Action required**The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **consider** this document.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References** *Document* [*CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/11*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0011/en) |

# 1 General information

The dedicated [webpage](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/sdgdigital/) of the ITU website says that on 17 September 2023, ITU, UNDP and partners convened for SDG Digital at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

As part of the SDG Action Weekend, the event focused on bringing digital SDG solutions to scale, including through new High Impact Initiatives for sustainable, inclusive digital transformation.

In accordance with the ITU email newsletter of 12 August 2024, and also in accordance with the information on the special [webpage](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/sdgdigital2024/) of the ITU website, building on the impact of last year’s SDG Digital, ITU and UNDP are gearing up for SDG Digital to take place on20-21 September in New York.

“SDG Digital is a cornerstone of our ongoing efforts to leverage digital innovation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), set within the broader context of this year’s UN General Assembly, the [Summit of the Future](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future) and its [Action Days](https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/action-days)”, the newsletter says.

SDG Digital is expected to exemplify how digital technologies can lay the groundwork for a more sustainable, inclusive, and responsible future.

The above information sources also note that, “By convening leaders from government, civil society, the private sector, youth, and academia, SDG Digital will propel participants forward into the future, encouraging exploration of the trends, risks, and opportunities presented by digital and emerging technologies on our journey forward”.

# 2 Basis for proposal

ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes is envisaged by Plenipotentiary conference Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022).

This resolution recognizes that “that the WSIS action lines are crucial for advancing the achievement of the SDGs…” and resolves to “to continue ITU's work on implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development using the WSIS-SDG Matrix”.

Also, Plenipotentiary conference Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Secretary-General, inter alia, “to ensure that ITU activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented through close alignment with the WSIS process…”.

In turn, ITU Council Resolution 1332 (amend. C24) considers that “the implementation of the WSIS outcomes will contribute to promoting digital transformation and the development of the digital economy and achieving the SDGs” and recognizes “(d) that there is a close SDGs-WSIS interlinkage reflected in WSIS-SDGs Matrix, that shows the value of continued implementation of the WSIS outcomes towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda”.

Moreover, ITU Council Resolution 1332 (amend. C24) instructs the Secretary-General to, inter alia:

 “2 to ensure that ITU activities related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are implemented through the close alignment with WSIS process and are conducted in accordance with its mandate, within established policies and procedures, and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget”,

 “5 to continue to contribute to the Summit of the Future and the SDG Summit, working towards synergy and coherence with the implementation of the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the views of the ITU Membership, including through CWG-WSIS&SDG”.

The previous meeting of the CWG-WSIS&SDGs considered the multi-country contribution Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0011/en), during the related discussion the issue was also raised that ITU Member States, within the framework of the current approaches to the work of the Union, do not have the opportunity to take part in the discussion of how ITU manifests itself in external processes of the global digital agenda, what contributions it makes and what are the messages of the Union in related discussions.

In this discussion, the Secretariat noted that “Digital being at the forefront of global discussions, ITU needs to be agile and make quick decisions regarding certain activities and events. Timelines for inputs and statements are usually short, requiring quick turnaround. These are within the mandates given to the General Secretariat and/or the Sectors within the PP and Council resolutions.” ([CWG-WSIS&SDG-40/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0015/en), 8.1.2)

At the same time, the analysis of information resources, materials, and presentations on SDG Digital of the past and this year, prepared and made on behalf of ITU, did not contain and do not contain any references to the WSIS process, the role of ITU in its implementation, as well as the connection between the processes of implementing WSIS decisions and achieving the SDGs.

# 3 Proposal

Bearing in mind the above, CWG-WSIS&SDGS is invited to recommend to the Secretariat to:

1 take steps to ensure that the dedicated SDG Digital 2024 webpage of the ITU website, the related materials posted on said webpage, and the ITU contribution to the event, whether in the form of welcoming words , information documents, presentations or other materials relating to the role of ITU in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, i.e. in the achievement of the UN SDGs, prepared by ITU, have been updated/prepared taking into account and duly reflecting the close linkage between the processes of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the achievement of the SDGs reflected in the WSIS-SDG Matrix, and that the WSIS action lines are crucial for advancing the achievement of the SDGs;

2 to submit a report on ITU participation in SDG Digital to the meeting of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDGs in winter 2025 and the next session of the ITU Council.

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