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| **Agenda item: PL.2** | **Document C25/8-E** |
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| Report by the Chair of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG |
| REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 41ST AND 42ND MEETINGS OF THE CWG-WSIS&SDG |
| **Purpose**This report summarizes the main results of the 41st and 42nd meetings of the Council Working Group on WSIS&SDG (CWG-WSIS&SDG), in line with Resolution [140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, and Council Resolutions [1332 (Modified 2024)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en) and [1334 (Modified 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en).**Action required by the Council**The Council is invited to take **note** of this report.**Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**Convening platforms, partnerships, and international cooperation.**Financial implications**Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**References***UNGA Resolutions* [*A/RES/70/125*](https://docs.un.org/A/RES/70/125)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](https://docs.un.org/A/RES/70/1)*,* [*A/RES/77/150*](https://docs.un.org/A/RES/77/150)*,* [*A/71/212*](https://docs.un.org/A/71/212)*,* [*A/70/299*](https://docs.un.org/A/70/299)*,* [*A/70/684*](https://docs.un.org/A/70/684)*,* [*A/RES/73/218*](https://docs.un.org/A/RES/73/218)*; UN ECOSOC* [*Resolution E/RES/2024/13*](https://undocs.org/E/RES/2024/13)*; Resolutions* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*172 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/Resolution172-PP10.pdf) [*and 71 (Rev. Bucharest 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf) *of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council Resolutions* [*1332 (Modified 2024)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en) *and* [*1334 (Modified 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0120/en)*; ITU-D Resolutions* [*30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf)*; ITU-T Resolutions* [*75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=T-RES-T.75-2022)*; Resolution* [*ITU-R 61-3 (Rev. Dubai, 2023)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/publications.aspx?lang=en&parent=R-RES-R.61-3-2023)*;* [*Final report on the outcomes of the CWG-WSIS&SDG 39th and 40th Meetings*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS40-C-0017/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)*;* [*WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes*](http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015*](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/inc/doc/outcome/362828V2E.pdf#page=21)*;* [*Final WSIS Targets Review*](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/publications/wsisreview2014/WSIS2014_review.pdf)*;* [*WSIS+10 Report – ITU’s Ten Year Contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014);*](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Documents/WSIS%2B10Report.pdf) [*Roadmap for ITU’s Activities to Help Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CWGWSIS38-C-0014/en) *(Doc. CWG-WSIS&SDG-38/14);* *[World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20: WSIS beyond 2025 – WSIS+20 Roadmap](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-s/md/22/cl/c/S22-CL-C-0059%21%21MSW-E.docx) (Doc. C22/59);* [*Draft WSIS+20 Report: ITU’s Twenty Years Contribution to the Implementation of and Follow-Up to the WSIS Outcomes and Its Role in Achieving the SDGs*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0060/en) *(Doc. C24/60);* [*Summit of the Future Outcome Documents*](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf)*.* |

# 1 Introduction

The work of the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs (CWG-WSIS&SDG) is based on Resolution [1332 (Mod. 2023)](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0119/en) and conducted in line with PP Resolution [140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf). The CWG-WSIS&SDG has proven to be an effective mechanism for facilitating Member States’ inputs on the role of ITU in implementing WSIS outcomes and achievement of the SDGs. The 41st and 42nd meetings were attended physically and virtually by more than 300 delegates, representing ITU Member States and Sector Members. Mr Tomas Lamanauskas, Deputy Secretary-General, delivered welcoming remarks at the meetings. The meetings were chaired by Ms Cynthia Lesufi (South Africa); and the Vice-Chairs Ms Khayala Pashazade (Azerbaijan), Ms Renata Santoyo (Brazil), Mr Ahmed Saleem (Iraq), Ms Mina Seonmin Jun (Korea (Rep. of)), Ms Janet Umutesi (Rwanda, remote), and Ms Susanna Mattsson (Sweden) were present.

# 2 General update on the CWG-WSIS&SDG 41st and 42nd Meetings

The two meetings considered 35 contributions and 16 information documents:

– [42nd meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C): held on 1-2 February 2024 ([Summary of 42nd meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0019/en)).

– [41st meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C): held on 17 October 2023 ([Summary of 41st meeting](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0018/en)).

# 3 ITU’s activities related to WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3.1 **Comprehensive report**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0004/en) and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0002/en), and provided information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in the context of the implementation 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. A multi-country contribution was presented on ITU’s participation to SDG Digital (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0013/en)).

3.2 **Interagency coordinating mechanism: United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0005/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/3](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0003/en) and provided updates on the activities of the UNGIS. The Group acknowledged the continued leadership of ITU and the active role of UNGIS in advancing the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 review process. It welcomed ITU’s coordination efforts, including its work as Vice-Chair and permanent secretariat of UNGIS, and encouraged further collaboration among UNGIS members to develop a work plan in support of GDC follow-up. The Group also recognized the value of the WSIS–GDC Matrix as a structured tool for mapping and aligning existing WSIS mechanisms with the objectives of the GDC.

3.3 **Roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0006/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/INF/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0006/en) and highlighted ITU’s activities and engagements that are advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.4 **ITU-D, ITU-T and ITU-R resolutions on WSIS**: Representatives from ITU Sectors delivered an oral presentation during the 41st CWG‑WSIS&SDG meeting and presented their respective information documents during the 42nd CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting (Docs [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0004/en) (TSB), [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0005/en) (BDT) and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0008/en) (BR)) on the implementation of activities mandated by the WSIS-related resolutions and Operational Plans of Sectors. The detailed information on the activities of the implementation of the ITU-D, ITU-T, and ITU-R resolutions on WSIS are listed in the [ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes Report](https://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx). The Group noted progress by the three Sectors on WSIS implementation and encouraged WSIS&SDG information sessions at Regional Development Forums, highlighting the WSIS+20 Review and GDC.

3.5 **Regional activities towards alignment of WSIS and SDG processes**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/7(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0007/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/5](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0005/en) on the implementation of the WSIS process at the regional level in collaboration with the Regional Offices, UN Regional Commissions, and other regional bodies. The Group recognized the efforts made towards strengthening alignment with activities at the regional level and encouraged the secretariat to continue working closely with the ITU Regional Offices, UN Regional Commissions, and the regional telecommunication organizations.

3.6 **ITU’s activities related to artificial intelligence in achieving the SDGs**: The secretariat delivered a presentation (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/INF/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-INF-0009/en)) highlighting ITU’s activities related to artificial intelligence (AI) in achieving the SDGs (Doc. [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0008/en)), and presented Document [CWG‑WSIS&SDG‑42/6](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0006/en), both in line with [Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-214-E.pdf) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on artificial intelligence technologies and telecommunications/
information and communication technologies. Two multi-country contributions were also presented (Docs [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/15(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0015/en) and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/14(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0014/en)).

The Group recognized AI as a significant topic and acknowledged the contributions from both the secretariat and the multi-country submissions. The Group appreciated the ITU’s efforts in implementing Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022), and encouraged the secretariat to provide updates with detailed information to this Group.

3.7 **Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-INF-0002/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0007/en) on the work of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission and its Annual report – The State of Broadband 2024 titled “Leveraging AI for Universal Connectivity”.

3.8 **Outcomes of G20 Brazil 2024 and plans for G20 South Africa 2025**: The hosts of G20, Brazil and South Africa, briefed the meetings, highlighting the outcomes (Docs [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/INF/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-INF-0007/en) and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0011/en)). The Group appreciated the updates. The Group invited the future hosts of G20 meetings to provide regular updates to the CWG-WSIS&SDG. The Group noted the importance of the shared aims between the WSIS Process and the G20 in addressing digital development issues.

# 4 Outcome of WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 and preparations for the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025

4.1 **Outcomes of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024**: The secretariat presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0002/en) about the highlights and outcomes from the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024. The Group appreciated all efforts made towards the success of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 and its outcomes, and thanked Switzerland for co-hosting the event. The outcome documents of the event, including the Chair’s summary, were shared by the ITU’s Secretary-General with the United Nations’ Secretary-General.

4.2 **Preparations towards WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025**: The secretariat presented Documents [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/3(Rev.2)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0003/en) and [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0009/en) on the preparations towards the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025, which will be held on 7-11 July 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Group was encouraged to contribute and participate to all 2025 calls, including the WSIS+20 High-Level Event Open Consultation Process, the WSIS Stocktaking and Prizes, as well as the WSIS Fund in Trust 2025. The Group requested the secretariat to explore options with the CSTD secretariat for incorporating the Event’s outcomes to the CSTD’s work on WSIS+20.

# 5 Updates on implementation and follow-up actions to relevant ITU and UN resolutions and processes:

5.1 **ITU Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Council Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C24)**: The Chair provided updates on the implementation of [Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf) of the Plenipotentiary Conference and Council [Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C24)](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en). The Group was encouraged to continue implementing the resolutions and invited ITU to maintain its support and provide updates on the implementation of WSIS-related mandates.

5.2 **Outcomes of Summit of the Future 2024 and follow-up**: The secretariat presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/9](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0009/en) on ITU’s contribution to the Summit of the Future. The Group encouraged ITU to contribute towards implementing the GDC principles, actions, and commitments within its mandate. In this context, the secretariat was also invited to further develop an action plan to follow up on the GDC, align with the WSIS Action Lines and WSIS+20 Review.

5.3 **Alignment of WSIS process and WSIS+20 Review with the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and Pact for the Future**: The Group recognized ITU’s key role in aligning WSIS with the GDC through the WSIS-2030 Agenda–GDC matrix and invited the secretariat to work with UNGIS on its follow-up and next steps. The secretariat presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0010/en) on ITU’s action plan for implementing the global digital compact.

The Group acknowledged the action plan presented and reiterated the critical role of ITU in implementing the GDC, including its objectives and sub-objectives. Emphasizing the need for coherence, the Group highlighted the alignment between the GDC and the WSIS process and encouraged stronger coordination between Geneva and New York. Recognizing the secretariat’s longstanding experience in managing the complex, multi-stakeholder WSIS process, the Group requested that this expertise be leveraged in ITU’s GDC implementation and noted the importance of considering additional financial and human resources.

5.4 **Outcomes from the HLPF 2024 and draft ITU Council Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2025**: The secretariat presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0010/en) and provided updates on ITU’s contributions to the HLPF 2024, and presented the draft input from the ITU Council to the HLPF (Doc. [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0011/en)).

5.5 **Internet Governance Forum 2024 and 2025**: A representative from Saudi Arabia provided a briefing on the outcomes of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2024 (Doc. [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-INF-0004/en)). The Group congratulated Saudi Arabia on the successful hosting of the IGF 2024 and also noted with appreciation Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/18](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0018/en). The Group was informed that Norway will host the IGF 2025 in Lillestrøm from 23 to 27 June 2025. The Group invited its members to participate in the event.

# 6 Preparation to the overall review on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes: WSIS beyond 2025

6.1 **Update on the ITU SG’s WSIS+20 roadmap**: The secretariat delivered an oral update on the implementation of the ITU Secretary-General’s WSIS+20 roadmap (Doc. [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-41/11](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0011/en)) and presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/4](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0004/en). The secretariat highlighted the presentations prepared by the WSIS Action Lines facilitators on 20 Years of WSIS+20 Review Action Lines Milestones, Challenges and Emerging Trends Beyond 2025 (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/2](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0002/en)). The Group appreciated the documents and was invited to continue contributing to the implementation of this Roadmap.

6.2 **Joint UN preparatory process on WSIS+20**: During its 41st CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting, the Group was updated by UNESCO, CSTD/UNCTAD, UNDP, UN DESA, ECLAC, ESCWA on WSIS+20 (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-INF-0008/en)). During the 42nd CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting, UNESCO confirmed the Global Forum on “AI and Digital Transformation in the Public Sector” will be held on 4–5 June 2025 in Paris, and CSTD shared progress on the WSIS+20 review, with a letter to ECOSOC forthcoming on the High-Level Event outcomes. The Chair proposed exploring a formal CSTD session at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event to consolidate inputs from major 2025 events. UN DESA also shared updates on the WSIS+20 overall review, available on its [DESA website](https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsis20).

6.3 The secretariat presented Document [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/12(Rev.1)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0012/en) on the preparation of the overall review on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes: WSIS+20 Review – WSIS Beyond 2025.

6.4 The Group noted the two letters on modalities review ([Letter on appointment of co-facilitators for WSIS+20 Modalities Review](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0003) –Doc. CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/3– and [Letter from President of the General Assembly on the co-facilitators letter on the Zero Draft of the modalities for the overall review](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0009) –Doc. CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/9) and proposed that ITU provide support to the co-facilitators and the Member States towards the UNGA overall review.

6.5 A multicountry contribution (by Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates) on the preparation of the overall review on the WSIS outcomes, WSIS+20 and WSIS Beyond 2025, was presented (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0017/en)).

6.6 **Update on the implementation of ITU Council Resolutions 1334 and 1332 (Call for inputs on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review and the review of the WSIS Action Lines)**: The Chair presented ITU’s ongoing efforts related to the call for inputs on the WSIS+20 review. A preliminary presentation of the results (78 submitted contributions as of 10 February 2025) from ITU’s call for inputs on the WSIS+20 review, which was also shared during a side event at the 42nd CWG-WSIS&SDG, and a side event on the [20 Years of Implementation of WSIS and the Vision Beyond 2025](https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2025/Agenda/Session/107), organized by ITU and South Africa (in its capacity as the current Chair of CWG-WSIS&SDG) at the IGF 2024.

The multicountry and Sector Members’ contribution on RCC Input to WSIS+20 Review (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/15](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0015/en)), and the EU’s submission (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/INF/10](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-INF-0010/en)) to the ITU’s call for inputs on WSIS+20 Review were presented.

In accordance with Resolution 1332, which requests the Secretary-General to update Council‑25 on the outcomes of the call for inputs, the Group emphasized that the report should be made available in a timely manner prior to Council 2025.

6.7 **WSIS+20 report on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of and follow-up to the WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs**: The Group discussed the draft WSIS+20 report on ITU’s contribution to the implementation and follow-up of WSIS outcomes and its role in achieving the SDGs, as presented by the secretariat (Docs [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/7](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0007/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0013/en)), considering the comments received (Docs [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0014/en) and [CWG‑WSIS&SDG-42/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0016/en)). The Group thanked the secretariat for the draft and the Russian Federation for its input, and proposed that the report be updated based on comments received, with final submissions by 4 March and publication of the final version by 14 March 2025.

The Chair informed the Group about the opportunity for Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders to compile a WSIS+20 Report to highlight their achievements, challenges, and trends in implementing the WSIS Outcome documents over the past twenty years. The secretariat was requested to publish the template and the available reports online. The reports can be submitted to wsis-info@itu.int.

6.8 Lithuania submitted a contribution on the messages of the EuroDIG 2024 on Global Processes (GDC, WSIS+20 review) (Doc. [CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/16](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0016/en)).

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