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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C25/27-E** |
| **30 April 2025** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| Strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the UnioN | |
| **Purpose**  This document presents a report on the implementation of Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on the strategy for the coordination of efforts among the three Sectors of the Union and the General Secretariat.  **Action required by the Council**  Council is invited **to note** the report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Excellence in human resources and organizational innovation.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 71*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-071-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022), Resolution* [*191*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-191-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022), and* [*Decision 5*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/DEC-005-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference* | |

1. **Background**

The 2022 Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22), through Resolution 191 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), instructs the Secretary-General to continue enhancing a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three Sectors and the General Secretariat, to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources of the Union. Furthermore, the Secretary-General is instructed to identify all forms and examples of overlapping functions and activities among the Sectors as well as the General Secretariat, and to propose solutions to address them.

The Secretary-General delegated to the Deputy Secretary-General the implementation of intersectoral coordination strategies.

In 2024, the Service Order that created the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) was reviewed (see [SO 24/06](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/SO-2024-006-en.pdf)) and established that, under the direction of the Coordination Committee (CoCo), the role of the ISC-TF is to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoid internal duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources.

1. **Coordination within the secretariat - Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF)**

The ISC-TF is the body that coordinates within the secretariat, and that liaises with the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) to identify the membership’s needs and provide options to improve cooperation and coordination across ITU.

Since the report presented to the Council last year, the ISC-TF secretariat continues to work to organize and find the best way to ensure the governance of the intersectoral coordination. These efforts include:

* Improvement of the [Intersectoral coordination webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/default.aspx) under the General Secretariat and in coordination with the ISCG.
* [Mapping of resolutions](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/Mapping-of-Resolutions-Updated%20Dec2024.pdf), from main ITU conferences/assemblies (last updated after WTSA-24).
* Update of the [list of themes](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/ties/ISCGDocumentLibrary/Liaisons%20Statements%20on%20Inter-Sectoral%20Coordination%20Activities/List%20of%20Focal%20Points%20published-Updated%20April2025.pdf) calling for intersectoral coordination together with the Focal Points appointed by the Sectors and the General Secretariat published on the webpage.

In 2024, the ISC-TF, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and composed of the D2s and Regional Directors, met five (5) times with the objectives to:

* promote coordinated work in the areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, promoting synergies and efficiencies as well as savings in the use of the ITU resources;
* follow-up on the progress and results achieved in each area; and
* identify and propose any measures and mechanisms, with a view to increasing efficiency and effectiveness.

The themes that reported to the ISC-TF were: Accessibility; Capacity development; Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability; Communications & Website; Data & Statistics; Digital Resilience (including cybersecurity); Digital Transformation; Emergency Telecommunications; Events Organization; Gender; Innovation; Membership/Partnership/Resource Mobilization; Regional Presence; Space; Youth; and e-Meetings/Virtual participation (these last theme coming from the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG)).

Some examples of concrete results of inter-Sector teams coordinating the work across ITU are:

* Capacity Development: the ITU Capacity Development Manual which lays down the principles, procedures and practices for implementing capacity development and training activities delivered by the Union. The manual was developed by the Intersectoral Task Force on Capacity Development, following discussions within the ITU secretariat and among the ITU membership on how to harmonize and strengthen capacity development approaches across the ITU to better respond to the emerging needs of the membership.
* Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability: The ITU’s presence at COP-29 and the organization of the first-ever digitalization day at a climate conference, that culminated in the declaration on Green Digital Action. Built around eight common objectives, the declaration recognises the importance of digital technologies to mitigate and adapt to climate change while acknowledging the adverse impacts of digital technologies on the climate.

More information about the themes reporting to the ISC-TF can be found in Council document [C25/35](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0035/en) on the implementation of the strategic plan and the activities of the Union.

Regarding the other themes that make up the list of themes requiring inter-Sectoral coordination, the secretariat continues to follow up with each focal point to assure coordination is in place and that they report to the Council on an annual basis. For more information, please visit the web-platform designed to report on the implementation of PP resolutions [here](https://www.itu.int/net4/Search/CL25).

**3** **Coordination among the membership - Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG)**

The membership coordination continues to be under the ISCG, chaired by Mr Fabio Bigi (Italy), as a contribution-driven group.

The ISCG, in its capacity as the membership coordination mechanism, met three times in 2024. Coordinators have been appointed by the Sector advisory groups for Accessibility, Climate Change, Remote Participation, and Sustainable Digital Transformation.

The group continues to address the following topics:

* Accessibility: The ISCG has been actively monitoring discussions on enhancing ITU meetings, particularly focusing on remote participation and captioning services. The group has proposed to the Council Working Group on financial and human resources (CWG-FHR) to include a paragraph in all circular letters inviting participants to ITU meetings, highlighting the option to request captioning services (see document [CWG-FHR-20/24](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0024/en)). With the recent retirement of the Accessibility coordinator, Ms Andrea Saks, a new coordinator should be appointed by the Sectors’ advisory groups.
* Climate Change: There is ongoing work related to climate change and artificial intelligence, including the development of recommendations for net-zero transition and the creation of an ITU database on global GHG emissions. Additionally, guidelines are being developed to assess the environmental impact of AI, considering both direct and indirect effects. It worth mentioning the collaboration between ITU-T and ITU-D on these topics and emphasizing the potential benefits of AI solutions in areas such as agriculture and energy optimization, particularly for developing countries.
* Virtual meetings / Remote participation: The coordinator for this theme continues to monitor the work carried out by the CWG-FHR and at the Council level. The agreed [Draft guidelines on the management of fully virtual and physical meetings with remote participation at ITU in line with the implementation of Resolution 167 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGFHR20-C-0003/en), to be presented to Council 2025, were shared with the Sector advisory groups seeking their inputs.
* ITU website: The ISCG has been actively monitoring this theme, specifically requesting the ITU secretariat to provide information on the harmonization of websites and the search system in all official languages of the Union on an equal footing. It was also requested that reports should be submitted to all CWG-Languages and ISCG meetings.
* Sustainable Digital Transformation: The coordinator for this theme has recognized the “ITU Digital Transformation and Cities Digest” as a valuable and comprehensive resource on digital transformation, and encouraged ITU-D, ITU-R and the General Secretariat to consider showcasing their activities in the publication. By contributing to the Digest, each Sector can enhance visibility, foster cross-sector collaboration, and provide a more holistic view of ITU’s work in this crucial area.
* New theme: “Industry Engagement” has been agreed upon as a new theme of interest, and the appointment of a coordinator is pending.

Outcome reports and calls for action are presented regularly to the Sector advisory groups, and to the CWG-FHR, whenever needed.

Further information on ISCG, such as meetings’ reports and documents discussed, can be found on the [ISCG webpage](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx).

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