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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C25/45-E** |
| **19 May 2025** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| ITU’S ACTIVITIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1429 | |
| **Purpose**  This report informs the Council about progress on the implementation of Resolution 1429 (C25).  **Action required by the Council**  The Council is invited to **take note** of the report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Sustainable Digital Transformation; Committed to environmental sustainability.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*Resolution 182*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-182-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Resolutions* [*73*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.73-2024) *and* [*106*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.106-2024) *(Rev. New Delhi, 2024) of the* *World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly, Council Resolution* [*1429*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0142/en) *(Geneva, 2024)* | |

*This document complements the climate action and environmentally sustainable digital transformation activities outlined in Document* [*C25/35*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0035/en)*.*

ITU is at the forefront of global initiatives to improve environmental efficiency, foster circular digital economies, reduce e-waste and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and position the ICT sector at the forefront of climate and environmental action.

Contribution to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change process and other international platforms

A key milestone was achieved at the 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The COP29 Presidency Azerbaijan adopted Green Digital Action as one of the 14 global initiatives under its Action Agenda. For the first time at a climate conference a Digitalization Day was announced, formally recognizing the critical role of digital technologies in climate action, both in reducing sectoral impact and in advancing digital inclusion.

Held on 16 November 2024, Digitalization Day featured a High-Level Roundtable on Digital Action where Ministers, industry leaders, and policy-makers explored how digital technologies can be harnessed to tackle climate-related challenges and improve emergency preparedness and response.

The day concluded with the endorsement of the first [COP29 Declaration on Green Digital Action](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/green-digital-action/events/cop29/declaration/) by governments, industry organizations, and tech companies. The Declaration calls for sector-wide collaboration to enhance climate monitoring, accelerate emission reductions, and expand inclusive digital access, ­especially in developing countries.

The Declaration is built around eight common objectives:

1 Leveraging digital technologies for comprehensive global action on GHG emissions, energy efficiency, climate monitoring and forecasting, and strengthening of emergency response and preparedness.

2 Building digital infrastructure that is resilient to climate change impacts.

3 Reducing the impact of digital technologies on the climate and facilitating emissions reductions to net-zero by powering digital infrastructure with clean energy and establishing approaches to measure and monitor climate impacts of tech, while minimizing resource intensity and tackling e-waste.

4 Making digital technologies for climate action accessible to developing countries while helping improve digital literacy, especially among young people and women.

5 Using data to fully understand the impact of green digital solutions and monitor regulatory adherence.

6 Encourage, with due regard to intellectual property rights, sustainable innovation by mobilizing existing climate funds, investing in innovation, research and development, and utilizing environmentally sustainable digital technologies and resilient infrastructure.

7 Promoting sustainable consumer practices.

8 Sharing best practices for digital policies and technologies to reduce GHG emissions and enhance adaptation and resilience.

More than 30 sessions were organized by ITU and partners under the Green Digital Action track at COP29. With support from Japan’s Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), ITU also participated in the Standards Pavilion, raising awareness of the role of international standards.

The ITU secretariat is collaborating with the Brazil COP30 Presidency to sustain this momentum and further emphasize the role of digital technologies and services in the climate agenda. The Green Digital Action Summit, hosted by the ITU and the German Environment Agency (UBA) on 23 May 2025 in Berlin, marks a significant midpoint in these ongoing efforts, showcasing progress and setting the stage for the next months.

Beyond COP29, ITU promoted the green digital agenda across major international platforms, including Climate Week New York, the AI For Good Summit, the WSIS Forum, the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators, the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium, the ITU-ETSI Symposium on ICT Sustainability Standards Driving Environmental Innovation and the IEEE-ITU Symposium on Achieving Climate Resilience. ITU’s contributions spanned topics such as environmental efficiency, digital infrastructure sustainability, international standards, data reporting and transparency, AI’s environmental impact and role in climate action and ICT sector GHG emissions reduction, reinforcing ITU’s role in climate resilience and sustainability.

ICTs’ contribution to climate action and environmentally responsible digital transformation

ITU continues to deepen its analysis of ICTs’ role in environmental efficiency and stewardship. The [2024 Greening Digital Companies](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Environment/Pages/Publications/GDC-24.aspx) report – launched with the World Benchmarking Alliance – assessed GHG emissions and energy consumption across 200 digital companies, emphasizing Scope 3 emissions and AI’s growing carbon footprint. The accompanying [Greening Digital Dashboard](https://greeningdigital.itu.int/), introduced at COP29, supports tracking of the ICT sector’s climate impact.

A collaboration with the World Bank produced the [Measuring the Emissions and Energy Footprint of the ICT Sector report](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Environment/Pages/Publications/Measuring-Emissions-and-Energy-Footprint-ICT-Sector.aspx), featuring emissions data from the 30 highest-emitting countries and case studies on regulatory approaches. A global survey of 77 countries highlighted gaps in regulatory mandates and revealed strong interest in an ITU working group on ICT GHG emissions monitoring and indicator development. In response, a “Sub-group on National Greenhouse Gas Emission Monitoring Indicators” led by the French ICT regulator ARCEP was established under the ITU-D Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) to harmonize indicators measuring the environmental impact of the ICT sector at the national level.

Further collaboration between the World Bank and ARCEP produced a best practice case study to support countries to collect and report environmental data from the ICT sector. BDT is supporting countries in harmonizing GHG emissions and energy use data collection from the ICT sector, including through a new project supported by the Ministry of Science and ICT, Government of the Republic of Korea.

In 2024, ITU surveyed Member States’ statistical focal points to understand national efforts and plans for monitoring ICT sector emissions and energy use.

ITU also continues to develop, promote, and implement international standards to enhance ICTs’ contribution to climate and environmental action. In 2024, ITU-T Study Group 5 on Environment, EMF, Climate Action, and Circular Economy approved standards on guidance for cooling technologies of data centres in multiple scenarios, environmental performance scoring of smartphones, and digital product passports for the ICT sector. A key deliverable in 2024 is [draft Recommendation ITU-T L.1472, “Requirements for the creation of an ITU database on energy consumption and GHG emissions of the ICT sector,”](https://www.itu.int/t/aap/recdetails/10858) which defines requirements for creating a database on ICT sector energy consumption and GHG emissions, outlining what data should be collected nationally and globally to inform ITU’s work.

A pilot project is underway to:

1 Collect new data based on the L.1472 methodology, beyond that in ITU’s Green Digital Companies reports and sources like CDP and sustainability disclosures.

2 Identify gaps between available and required data.

3 Test the feasibility of data collection as outlined in L.1472.

4 Compare current national data collection with proposed indicators using reports such as Measuring the Environmental Impact of the ICT Sector: ARCEP Case Study – France (ITU, March 2025).

The EGTI Sub-group on National Greenhouse Gas Emission Monitoring Indicators will collaborate closely with ITU-T SG5 to refine L.1472 and ensure consistency between measurement methodologies.

At the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024) in India a new Resolution 106 on *Enhancing standardization activities on sustainable digital transformation* was adopted. It encourages the development of ITU‑T Recommendations that leverage digital technologies, applications, services, and platforms related to telecommunications/ICTs in order to drive sustainable digital transformation.

Resolution 73 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024) on ICTs, Environment, Climate Change, and Circular Economy was also revised to emphasize e-waste reduction, environmental impact minimization, and improved data harmonization across national systems.

Operational greening

In 2024 ITU has [strengthened governance and operations](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/greening-ITU.aspx) of its Environmental Management System (EMS) in line with the requirements of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination strategy for sustainability management. This work included revising ITU’s [Environmental Sustainability Policy](https://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Documents/ITU%20Environmental%20Sustainability%20Policy%20%282025%29.pdf), enhancing the EMS Working Group, and strengthening ITU’s internal environmental targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improving operational efficiency.

According to UNEP’s [tracker](https://greeningtheblue.org/entities/itu) of UN system environmental impact, ITU’s CO2 emissions rose from 1,969 tonnes in 2022 to 2,582 tonnes in 2023. This was a 31% increase compared to the 9% increase across the UN system as per UNEP’s 2024 [Greening the Blue annual report](https://greeningtheblue.org/interactive-report/2024.html). ITU-paid flights make up the majority of the organization’s greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, ITU is not on track to meet the UN system target of reducing its emissions by 45% from its 2010 baseline, in line with IPCC recommendations. Corrective measures are being considered.

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