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| **Agenda item: PL 2** | **Document C25/70-E** |
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| Report by the Secretary-General | |
| COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING ON STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT | |
| **Purpose**  This report presents some highlights of ITU’s contributions to and engagement in major United Nations (UN) conferences, processes and workstreams on digital themes, including aspects of the UN Secretary-General’s report “Our Common Agenda”. A more comprehensive description is found in the information document on collaboration with the UN system.  **Action required by the Council**  The ITU Council is invited to **note** this report.  **Relevant link(s) with the Strategic Plan**  Partnerships and international cooperation.  **Financial implications**  Within the allocated budget 2024-2025.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Documents* [*C08/INF/8*](http://www.itu.int/md/S08-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C11/INF/6*](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-INF-0006/en)*,* [*C12/INF/1(Rev.1)*](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-CL-INF-0001/en)*,* [*C13/INF/10*](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-CL-INF-0010/en)*,* [*C14/INF/7*](http://www.itu.int/md/S14-CL-INF-0007/en)*,* [*C15/INF/4*](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-INF-0004/en)*,* [*C16/57*](http://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0057/en)*,* [*C17/INF/10*](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0010/en)*,* [*C18/INF/4*](https://www.itu.int/md/S18-CL-INF-0004/en)*,* [*C19/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S19-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C20/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/S20-CL-INF-0003/en)*,* [*C21/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S21-CL-INF-0002/en)*,* [*C22/INF/2*](https://www.itu.int/md/S22-CL-INF-0002/en)*,* [*C23/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0008/en)*,* [*C23/INF/9*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-INF-0009/en)*,* [*C24/55*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0055/en)*,* [*C24/INF/9*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-INF-0009/en) *and* [*C25/INF/8*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0008/en) | |

# 1. Introduction

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a key means of implementation. As digital technology plays an increasingly crucial role in transforming global economic and social activities, maximizing the benefits, and addressing the challenges of the digital agenda have emerged as shared interests and priorities across the entire UN system and have remained a top priority of the UN Secretary-General. As the UN specialized agency for ICTs, ITU actively engages in various processes, mechanisms, and coordination networks within the UN system, and contributes to various joint or inter-agency initiatives.

# 2 Pact of the Future

2.1 The [Summit of the Future](https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/summit-of-the-future), which took place on 22-23 September 2024 and preceded by Action Days on 20-21 September, adopted the outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future ([A/RES/79/1](https://docs.un.org/A/RES/79/1))”, along with its two annexes: the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

2.2 ITU plays a pivotal role in fostering international collaboration, driving innovation, and ensuring that digital technologies support the implementation of the Pact for the Future . Among others, ITU is committed to playing its role in leading the global digital transformation, in alignment with actions related to science, technology and innovation, and digital cooperation outlined in the Pact for the Future, as well as the objectives set out in the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

2.3 Given that the objectives, principles, and commitments of the GDC are aligned with ITU’s existing mandates, ITU is focusing on directly supporting Member States in the implementation of the GDC by facilitating access to digital technologies, expertise, and resources. This includes initiatives that promote universal connectivity, close digital divides, and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age. ITU’s efforts also address key challenges such as digital literacy, inclusivity, online safety, and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), providing tailored support for national strategies to align with global digital goals. As outlined in the [ITU’s Action Plan for Implementing the Global Digital Compact (CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/10)](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0010/en), ITU will support Member States and other stakeholders in achieving sustainable digital transformation by aligning GDC objectives with existing or new initiatives.

2.4 ITU also takes a leading role in strengthening digital cooperation within the UN system, notably through its co-chairmanship of the Working Group on Digital Technologies (WGDT) with the new UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET), under the UN Secretary-General’s Steering Committee for Pact Implementation. This Working Group aims to follow up on the implementation of Actions 28–33 in Chapter III of the Pact and its Annex - the Global Digital Compact - focusing on actions assigned to the UN Secretary-General and the UN system, such as developing the GDC Implementation Map (as referenced in paragraph 71 of the GDC). In addition to co-chairing the Working Group, ITU co-leads sub-groups on the digital divide and artificial intelligence (responding to GDC Objectives 1 and 5), and actively contributes to others on the digital economy, online safety and human rights, and data governance (responding to Objectives 2 – 4). More details can be found in Document [C25/52](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0052/en) and more related AI-specific can be found in Document [C25/56](http://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0056/en).

2.5 In addition to its digital-focused roles, ITU actively contributes to several other Working Groups under the UN Secretary-General’s Steering Committee for Pact implementation. These include groups on the Pact’s contribution to SDGs, Peace and Security, International Financial Architecture (IFA) Reform, UN Governance Reform, and Youth. In particular, ITU serves as a co-action lead for Action 27(c) on bridging digital divides in the Peace and Security group, and contributes to Action 24(b) on combating transnational organized crime. Within the UN Governance Reform group, ITU supports actions related to space cooperation[[1]](#footnote-2), working closely with the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). This includes organizing capacity-building events to help Member States strengthen their understanding of space law and related regulations.

# 3 UN80

3.1 The UN80 Initiative represents a pivotal moment in the history of the United Nations, coinciding with its 80th anniversary and addressing the intensification of global resource challenges and the urgent need for multilateral reform. Launched by the Secretary-General on 11 March 2025, this initiative aims to enhance the UN’s ability to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, the Pact for the Future, and its core mission to serve people worldwide. Building on earlier reform efforts to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability, the UN80 Task Force focuses on three key workstreams: optimizing operations, ensuring full implementation of mandates, and exploring structural changes and program realignment.

# 3.2 The UNSG has established seven thematic clusters—Peace and Security; two Development clusters (one for the UN secretariat and one for the broader UN system); Humanitarian; Human Rights; Training and Research; and Specialized Agencies—to drive these efforts. ITU Secretary-General is a member of the Task Force and co-leading the Specialized Agencies cluster with ILO.

# 4 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

[CSW69](https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw69-2025) took place from 10 to 21 March 2025 in New York, focusing on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, on its 30th Anniversary. [The Beijing+30 Political Declaration](https://docs.un.org/E/CN.6/2025/L.1), one of CSW69’s key outcome documents, adopted by consensus, focused on the full, effective, and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Digital issues were featured in the declaration, which recognizes technology’s transformative potential while acknowledging risks, particularly the gender digital divide. An action agenda was launched to accelerate progress on women’s rights, covering six key areas, including an action on digital revolution. ITU organized several side events, such as “Artificial Intelligence: A Transformative Force for All Women & Girls” and the ITU Secretary-General participated in several events, including the Ministerial Roundtable on “National mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. The launch of EQUALS 2.0 was also announced.

# 5 Green Digital Action

Following the launch of Green Digital Action ahead of COP28, ITU, together with over 50 partners across the UN system, governments, business, and civil society, convened the second edition of the Green Digital Action track at the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024. For the first time in COP history, the COP Presidency announced a [Digitalization Day](https://www.itu.int/initiatives/green-digital-action/events/cop29/#:~:text=First%2Dever%20Digitalisation%20Day&text=Therefore%2C%20apart%20from%20the%20regular,technologies%20can%20transform%20climate%20action.) featuring a High-Level Roundtable which concluded in the adoption of [the COP29 Green Digital Action Declaration](https://cop29.az/en/pages/cop29-declaration-on-green-digital-action) endorsed by over 80 Member States and nearly 1800 other entities. In implementation of Council Resolution 1429, ITU continues to engage with the UNFCCC and COP Presidencies with the aim to improve ICTs' contribution to climate and environmental action.

# 6 Joint SDG Fund

[The Joint SDG Fund](https://www.jointsdgfund.org/) is an inter-agency pooled mechanism for integrated policy support and strategic financing. ITU, together with UNDP, has served as coordinator of the Technical Support Group for the Digital Transformation (DT) Window. This included facilitating the process to award 23 grants in the first round of funding valued at 30M Euro. The ITU Deputy Secretary-General also serves on the Operational Steering Committee of the Joint SDG Fund. ITU’s involvement in the Fund has enabled ITU to contribute to harnessing digital connectivity and sustainable digital transformation within the broader UN system. During 2025, ITU will continue to make efforts to link DT Window country programs with ITU activities, such as the inputting of all DT Window high impact track programs as Partner2Connect pledges.

# 7 High Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure

7.1 Launched at the SDG Acceleration Day in September 2023, ITU and UNDP co-lead the High Impact Initiative on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The initiative aims to scale inclusive, secure, and open digital ecosystems to accelerate progress on the SDGs. Over the past year, ITU has advanced key dimensions of DPI, including work on Universal Safeguards (in collaboration with UNDP and ODET), interoperability frameworks (through WTSA Resolution 103), interoperable digital wallets (via the Open Wallet Forum with the Linux Foundation), DPI in cities (through the U4SSC Initiative) and DPI in education (through the Giga initiative).

7.2 The inaugural Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit, co-hosted by ITU with UNDP, ODET, the World Bank, and Co-Develop, in partnership with the Government of Egypt, was held in Cairo from 1 – 3 October 2024 under the auspices of H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. The Summit brought together around 700 delegates from 101 countries - including governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations - to explore how safe, inclusive, and interoperable digital public infrastructure can accelerate progress toward the SDGs by enabling more effective service delivery, fostering innovation, and strengthening digital cooperation across borders.

7.3 In January 2025, ITU and India convened [the Citizen Stack Conference on Citizen-Centric Digital Transformations](https://pmindiaun.gov.in/notice/MzM1#:~:text=Citizen%20Stack%202025%3A%20Conference%20on,Digital%20Transformations%2029%20January%202025). On 15 September 2025, ITU-T Study Group 20 will organize a Forum on Connected by Design: Building Inclusive Digital Infrastructure for Future-Ready Cities. Later this year, ITU, together with UNDP and other partners, will convene [the 2nd Global DPI Summit](https://www.globaldpisummit.org/) in South Africa. Across these efforts, ITU promotes principles of data sovereignty, open standards, and vendor-neutral systems to support resilient and equitable digital public infrastructure. ITU also serves as the knowledge partner on DPI within the G20 Digital Economy Working Group of the South African Presidency.

# 8 Digital Infrastructure Investment Initiative

8.1 Recognizing that the lack of physical digital infrastructure remains one of the main challenges to achieving universal and meaningful connectivity, ITU launched the Digital Infrastructure Investment initiative (DIII) in April 2024. Co-led with seven Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), the DIII identifies the key actions required to close the digital infrastructure investment gap, estimated to be at least USD 1.6 trillion, through the development of innovative financing mechanisms and platforms.

8.2 Building on the work of the DIII, ITU has been actively engaged in the preparatory process for [the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)](https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4?_gl=1*wh20f7*_ga*MTkyMzMzMTY2LjE3Mjg1NDc4MDc.*_ga_TK9BQL5X7Z*czE3NDc2NTk3NjkkbzMyJGcwJHQxNzQ3NjU5NzY5JGowJGwwJGgw*_ga_SCSJZ3XC0L*czE3NDc2NTk3NjkkbzMkZzAkdDE3NDc2NTk3NjkkajAkbDAkaDA.), including the development of a [policy brief](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffinancing.desa.un.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fffd4-inputs%2F2025-02%2FBrief%2520Series%2520-%2520ITU%2520Digital%2520Infrastructure%2520Financing.pdf&data=05%7C02%7CJeoungHee.Kim%40itu.int%7C17989d28f0814e0733ab08dd96d506af%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638832563868703795%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=a%2FPtDQkpkGbERmkVMv32oIfqbUOHiSJ9JhGaf2Rnkrc%3D&reserved=0) outlining three key initiatives to unlock investments in digital infrastructure: establishing a technical forum with development finance institutions (DFIs); launching a digital infrastructure investment transaction platform; and developing a knowledge hub on innovative financing for connectivity within Giga’s Connectivity Centre in Geneva. Several engagements will take place at the Conference (Seville, June 30 – July 3), including a side event on Strategies for Financing a Sustainable and Inclusive Connected World, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNICEF, and the governments of Brazil, Spain, and South Africa. Through these efforts, ITU aims to strengthen collaboration among UN agencies, DFIs, the private sector, and other key stakeholders to catalyze digital infrastructure investment.

# 9 G20

ITU has been invited by the South African Presidency as a Knowledge Partner for the Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG). As a Knowledge Partner for DEWG, ITU has been a lead contributor towards the presidency’s priorities related to Equitable Digital Inclusion, Digital Public Infrastructure and Transformation, Digital Innovation Ecosystems and unleashing the potential of MSMEs and Equitable, Inclusive and Just AI. ITU is also contributing to the Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, providing technical expertise related to digital early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and ICT-enabled disaster preparedness strategies, reinforcing global response capabilities. Further, ITU is engaged in the AI Taskforce providing expertise on AI governance, innovation, capacity building, and technical standards, ensuring that AI serves as a force for good. ITU has also been invited to participating in the Sherpa meetings of the G20. Beyond these engagements, ITU has partnered with the Presidency secretariat to organize training programs for chairs and scribes, enhancing the efficiency of the G20 process.

# 10 Human rights and technology

10.1 At the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24) in New Delhi, India, human rights were referenced for the first time in ITU resolutions—one explicitly focused on the [metaverse](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.105-2024), and another addressing the trustworthiness requirements embedded in [AI technical standards](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.101-2024). A [side event](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/2024/1021/Pages/default.aspx) co-organized with OHCHR, the EU, France, and the Czech Republic gathered 120+ participants and generated recommendations to embed human rights in standards, enhance participation, and institutionalize risk assessments.

10.2 In 2025, ITU strengthened its collaboration with OHCHR to integrate human rights into technical standards. It contributed to a key side event at [Human Rights Council 58](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fen%2Fhr-bodies%2Fhrc%2Fregular-sessions%2Fsession58%2Fregular-session&data=05%7C02%7CJeoungHee.Kim%40itu.int%7C4913c5fd19484ae4761308dd8319c606%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638810868909325496%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=mLhxiXXewlQBXW%2B3%2BIf6qGeGwaMlHL1UuODj6XOUHlc%3D&reserved=0), highlighting inter-agency collaboration, the need for a Human Rights Advisory Service, and alignment with the Global Digital Compact. ITU also participated in the [OECD AI Governance Summit](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foecd.ai%2Fen%2FactionSUMMIT&data=05%7C02%7CJeoungHee.Kim%40itu.int%7C4913c5fd19484ae4761308dd8319c606%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638810868909343441%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZvfPgkZ6npWSpa1JiZGPmYyQGkPvSngJYcWsDTe4mb0%3D&reserved=0) and the [AI Standards Hub Global Summit](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faistandardshub.org%2Fglobal-summit%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJeoungHee.Kim%40itu.int%7C4913c5fd19484ae4761308dd8319c606%7C23e464d704e64b87913c24bd89219fd3%7C0%7C0%7C638810868909355867%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=j3ehBhv6GK4ZcLVXyNaiVQ2ANG3AcQqdQKkZ1DdXNPo%3D&reserved=0)—both co-organized with OHCHR—to promote rights-based AI standardization and inclusive multilateral cooperation. More details are available in the [ITU-T report to TSAG](https://www.itu.int/md/T22-TSAG-R-0004/en).

# 11 Standards Development and related activities

11.1 The Radiocommunication Bureau’s (BR) work with regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) is an integral part of global preparations for World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) and supports capacity-building within the regions. In coordination with ITU Regional Offices, BR collaborates with RTOs on the delivery of capacity-building events for the ITU membership in their region, while the RTOs coordinate the development of regional proposals from their Member States to the WRC. Also, the RTOs actively facilitate consensus-building between and amongst regions and facilitate consensus-building and decision-making at WRCs.

11.2 The Intergovernmental Organizations (e.g. ICAO, IMO, IALA, IATA, IMSO, BIPM) participate in the ITU-R Study Groups and provide advisory input at WRCs to resolve agenda items impacting their mandates. ITU also collaborated with ICAO’s Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP) in the various areas, including WRC-27 preparation and harmful interference affecting aeronautical safety services and GNSS. In this respect, ITU, ICAO and IMO issued [a joint statement](https://www.itu.int/en/mediacentre/Documents/2025/ICAO-IMO-ITU-Joint-Statement.pdf) to raise grave concern about the rising cases of harmful interference to RNSS that supports accurate global navigation and timekeeping. This concern was also communicated to the UN Secretary-General. Additionally, ITU joined ICAO’s initiative on the harmonization of the unmanned aviation systems (UAS) framework in support of UN mission, mandate and objective More details can be found in Document [C25/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0008/en).

11.3 In the area of standards development, ITU-R cooperates with several standards development organizations (SDOs) towards the development of international standards in the field of Radiocommunication mobile technologies (e.g. 5G, and future 6G standards) as well as standards for Intelligent Transport Systems.

11.4 The Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) collaborates extensively with UN entities, including with UN-Habitat and other 19 UN entities on smart sustainable cities, UNICC and other 19 UN entities on metaverse and virtual worlds, WHO and WIPO on AI for health, FAO on IoT and AI for digital agriculture, WMO and UNEP on AI for natural disaster management and smart submarine cables, UNECE on Intelligent Transport Systems and Autonomous Driving, UNIDO, UNEP, the secretariat of the Basel Convention, One Planet Network (hosted by UNEP) on E-waste and Circular Economy, UNFCCC, UNESCO on environmental efficiency and Climate Actions as well as with other UN entities on areas, such as human rights, energy efficiency, counterfeiting and more. TSB also organizes the annual UN Virtual Worlds Day, co-hosted by ITU in collaboration with 20 UN entities. This event brings together diverse stakeholders to explore how AI-powered virtual worlds—including the metaverse—can contribute to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Pact for the Future. More details can be found in Document [C25/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0008/en).

11.5 ITU continues to collaborate with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) within the framework of the World Standards Cooperation (WSC), to promote global standards and address any technical cooperation. ITU also aligns standards with the European Telecommunications Standards Institutes (ETSI) on environmental efficiency and climate actions.

**12.** **UN Inter-Agency Coordination**

12.1 As a specialized agency of the United Nations, the ITU plays a vital role in fostering inter-agency coordination to strengthen synergies, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing, ensuring its mandate on global connectivity and sustainable digital transformation is integrated into broader UN priorities.

12.2 Through active participation in the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its two main pillars—the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) and the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)—ITU contributes to system-wide coherence in both operational and programmatic areas. By engaging with HLCM, ITU supports efforts to optimize administrative, financial, and operational processes across the UN system, ensuring it is both efficient and aligned with UN system organizational goals. Meanwhile, through HLCP, ITU collaborates to embed digital transformation and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, into strategic UN system frameworks that address complex global challenges, including bridging digital divides, enhancing cybersecurity, and fostering inclusive development.

12.3 At the operational level, ITU works closely with the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), contributing its expertise to enhance the work of the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and UN Country Teams. ITU plays a key role in supporting the development and implementation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, ensuring that digital inclusion, connectivity, and capacity-building are integrated into national development priorities. In addition, ITU participates in other UN coordination mechanisms, such as thematic task forces, expert groups, and partnerships, further strengthening system-wide collaboration on pressing global issues. In addition,ITU collaborates with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in system-wide reviews and follows its recommendations to improve organizational efficiency and accountability.More details are available in [C25/INF/8](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-INF-0008/en).

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1. Action 56 of the Pact for the Future states – “We will strengthen international cooperation for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all humanity.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)