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| **Agenda item: PL2** | **Document C25/80-E** |
| **31 May 2025** |
| **Original: Russian** |
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| Contribution by the Russian Federation | |
| PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUING THE WSIS PROCESS BEYOND 2025 | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution proposes to underline the importance of continuing to drive forward the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process as a platform for meeting the objectives of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and achieving the SDGs.  **Action required by the Council**  The council is invited to **consider** and **take** any appropriate actions.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  [*CWG-WSIS&SDG website*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)*; UNGA Resolutions* [*А/RES/70/125*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/125)*,* [*A/RES/70/1*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/1)*,* [*А/RES/77/150*](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/755/00/pdf/N2275500.pdf?OpenElement)*,* [*А/RES/71/212*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/71/212)*,* [*А/RES/70/299*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/299)*,* [*А/RES/73/218*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/73/218)*; UN Secretary-General’s report* [*А/70/684*](https://docs.un.org/en/A/70/684)*; UN ECOSOC Resolution* [*E/RES/2024/13*](https://docs.un.org/en/E/RES/2024/13)*; Resolutions* [*140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf)*,* [*172 (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)*; Resolution* [*30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/tdc/D-TDC-WTDC-2022-PDF-E.pdf) *of the World Telecommunication Development Conference; Resolution* [*75 (Rev. Geneva, 2022)*](https://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2022) *of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly; Resolution* [*ITU-R 61-3*](https://www.itu.int/pub/R-RES-R.61) *of the Radiocommunication Assembly;* [*WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes*](https://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*](https://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+10Report.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)*;* *[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!!MSW-E.docx);* [*Summit of the Future outcome documents*](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sotf-pact_for_the_future_adopted.pdf)*;* *Council Document* [*C25/61*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CL-C-0061/en), *containing the Secretary-General’s 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.* | |

# I Introduction

ITU launched the WSIS process following a proposal by Tunisia at the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis. ITU continues to play a leading role in the WSIS process, organizing the annual WSIS Forum, maintaining the WSIS stocktaking database, and so on.

ITU's report (ITU Council Document C61) provides a detailed analysis of the achievements and problems over those 20 years, which the Member States can endorse.

The main goal of WSIS was to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, in which anyone could create, access, use and share knowledge and information. Sadly, this goal has not been universally achieved, as 2.6 billion people remain without access to the Internet. The WSIS process is closely linked to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and is an engine for achieving that Agenda.

Special attention was paid to bridging the digital divide, especially between the global North and South, and making progress in all aspects, including geographical and gender issues.

Unfortunately, while progress in bridging the digital divide is being made in some areas, the divide is growing with the development of new and emerging information and communication technologies, including artificial intelligence.

The UN Secretary-General has estimated that less than one-quarter of the SDGs have been reached in the last ten years. Moreover, the fact that the interests of developing countries are being ignored is a significant obstacle in assessing the results of the implementation of the Summit's outcomes.

We believe that the GDC's goals are fully incorporated within the WSIS Action Lines and there is therefore no need for an additional specialized organization, as would only lead to duplication of effort and unnecessary expenditure of scarce funds. This is clearly shown by the WSIS-SDG and WSIS-SDG-GDC matrices prepared by ITU and the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS).

The continuation of the WSIS process beyond 2025 with a focus on security and the technological accessibility of digital products must therefore be supported as a necessary basis for achieving the SDGs and meeting the objectives of the GDC.

We recognize the enormous amount of work that the secretariat put into the preparation of the WSIS+20 report, and we thank them for taking into account the comments and suggestions submitted by the Russian Federation during the CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting. At the same time, we would like to draw attention to the fact that ITU's report to the April meeting of UNCSTD was not published on the CWG-WSIS&SDG website as announced, which could be interpreted, unfortunately, as excluding the ITU membership from the discussion of documents sent by the secretariat to external organizations.

# II Proposals

2.1 Support the Secretary-General's 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, and recommend submitting it to the WSIS+20 Forum in July 2025.

2.2 In the event that the report is revised on the basis of the outcomes of the WSIS Forum, post the revised report on the CWG-WSIS&SDG website before sending it to UNCSTD and the UN, so that comments can be made.

2.3 Support the continued annual convening of the WSIS Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) beyond 2025, and clarify the IGF's mandate for the development of more practical outcome recommendations and documents.

2.4 Use the provisions in the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015 that were approved at the WSIS+10 High-Level Event in 2014 to create a vision for WSIS beyond 2025 in the preparation of the 2025 UNGA resolution, given relevance and pertinence of these provisions at the present juncture.

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