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|  | **Revision 1 to Document CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/14** |
| **8 February 2025** |
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| Contribution by China (People’s Republic of), Cuba, and South Africa (Republic of) | |
| ENHANCING THE JOINT EFFORTS ON AI CAPACITY-BUILDING OF ITU | |
| **Purpose**  This contribution puts forward recommendations on strengthening artificial intelligence capacity building of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), aiming to integrate all the efforts of the Union, which will assist ITU members, especially developing countries better bridging the digital divide brought by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.  **Action required**  The Council Working Group on WSIS and the SDGs is invited to **consider** this document and **adopt** the recommendations.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **References**  *Resolutions* [*140*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-140-E.pdf) *(Rev. Bucharest, 2022) and* [*214*](https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/basic-texts-2023/RES-214-E.pdf) *(Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference; Council Resolution*[*1332*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0141/en) *(C11, last amended C24);*  *Council and CWG Documents* [*C24/35*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0035/en)*,* [*C24/67*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-C-0067/en)*,* [*C24/INF/15*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CL-INF-0015/en)*,* [*CWG-WSIS&SDG-42/6*](https://www.itu.int/md/S25-CWGWSIS42-C-0006/en)*,* [*CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/18*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0018/en)*,* [*CWG-WSIS&SDG-41/15 (Rev.1)*](https://www.itu.int/md/S24-CWGWSIS41-C-0015/en)*;*  *UNGA Resolutions* [*79/1*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F79%2F1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*78/311*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F78%2F311&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*78/265*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F78%2F265&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*,* [*60/252*](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n05/502/72/pdf/n0550272.pdf)*,* [*59/220*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F59%2F220&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) | |

**1. Background**

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and applications has made AI a key driver for telecommunications/ICT to promote universal and sustainable digital connectivity and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, the unbalanced development of AI technologies has become increasingly prominent. Most countries, especially the developing ones, have not truly benefited from it. To accelerate the building of a universal, just, open, and people-centered information and digital society, providing tailored capacity building to developing countries has become more urgent than ever.

In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly, by adopting resolution78/311 on Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence. The Resolution urges specialized agencies, funds, programmes, other entities, bodies and offices, and related organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to leverage the opportunities and address the challenges in enhancing international cooperation on artificial intelligence capacity. The Global Digital Compact that was adopted by the Summit of the Future also encourages the development of international partnerships on artificial intelligence capacity-building to develop education and training programmes, and increase access to resources.

The 2024 Session of ITU Council, through its Resolution 1332 (C11, last amended C24), requests CWG-WSIS&SDG to provide guidance to ITU on how its future and ongoing activities can help facilitate capacity-building related to the use of Artificial Intelligence in achieving the SDGs, to facilitate inputs from membership on the ITU implementation of PP Resolution 214, through its regular meetings and other appropriate methods, and to monitor the actions taken by ITU with respect to AI with a view to enhance intersectoral coordination, regional empowerment, and membership engagement. The WTSA-24, through Resolution 101 (2024, New Delhi), calls for supporting developing countries in building their capacity in AI, including by providing technical guidance, and invites ITU members to engage in the AI-related activities of the CWG-WSIS&SDGs.

At present, a series of consensuses have been reached at the international level on the development of artificial intelligence, and relevant resolutions of the ITU Council and the WTSA have also provided guidance for the ITU to strengthen its work on artificial intelligence capacity building. It is necessary to take implementation measures while leveraging the efforts from all members of the Union, and to jointly bridge the divides raised by AI.

1. **Discussion**

Developing countries are facing severe shortages in key resources required for the development of artificial intelligence, such as infrastructure, computing power, models, data, Skills and talents, which poses significant challenges to the fulfillment of global sustainable development. The ITU has significant role in promoting AI capacity-building, including its regional and area offices covering six regions around the world, with over 1000 members covering administrations, enterprises, research institutions, etc. Subsequently, these efforts aim to provide financial resources, human expertise, and knowledge support to promote the development and welfare of AI in all countries. However, the current initiatives are somewhat fragmented. To enhance these efforts, it is crucial to formulate a comprehensive plan for AI capacity building that integrates the activities of the General Secretariat, the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB), and the Development Sector (BDT), while also providing more substantial support to developing countries.

**3. Proposal**

1. The CWG-WSIS&SDG, with the assistance from the ITU Secretariat, to draft a work plan for ITU's joint efforts on artificial intelligence capacity building, which should clarify the main objectives, specific measures and work arrangements, taking into account of the existing resources, activities and partnership networks and initiatives, and encourage the contribution of ITU members.

2. To strengthen the cross-sectoral coordination on artificial intelligence capacity building in ITU, focusing on making good use of the existing capacity building resources and platforms of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) and the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), and leveraging advantages of the regional offices, to better meet the needs of developing countries in various regions.

3. An online correspondence group may be established to carry out relevant work, if necessary, to promote the drafting of the work plan of artificial intelligence capacity building of ITU.

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