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| African Telecommunication Union Administrations |
| PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO RESOLUTION 75 |
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| **Abstract:** | ATU proposes to modify WTSA Resolution 75 to align with Council Resolution 1332, based on UNGA Resolution A/78/L.49. It focuses on leveraging safe and secure AI systems for sustainable development and refers to UNGA Resolution 70/125, which encompasses the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. It also anticipates the General Assembly's overall review in 2025 of the progress made since the Summit. |
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Introduction

PP Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) addresses mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU. Considering PP Resolution 140 on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in their follow-up and review processes, recognition of the role played by the TSB in the successful coordination of discussions and sessions at the annual WSIS Forum events in 2023 and 2024, in collaboration with the Global Cities Hub and other WSIS stakeholders. Outcomes of WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 and the Chair’s Summary call for the continuous relevance of the WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS Action Lines that serve as a pertinent framework of discussion on digital governance issues; Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 review should complement and reinforce each other, building on existing multistakeholder mechanisms like the WSIS Forum and IGF, avoiding duplication of efforts.

Proposal

To invite members and stakeholders to provide input on the ITU's work in the WSIS+20 review including the review of the WSIS Action Lines. Also, encourage Member States, Sector Members, and Academia to contribute to the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 in Geneva. This event will be a platform for discussions on the WSIS+20 review and WSIS Action Lines and to assess achievements since the Geneva Plan of Action.

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RESOLUTION 75 (Rev. New Delhi, 2024)

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector's contribution in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

(Johannesburg, 2008; Dubai, 2012; Hammamet, 2016; Geneva, 2022; New Delhi, 2024)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (New Delhi, 2024),

recalling

*a)* the relevant outcomes of both phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS);

*b)* United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* UNGA Resolution 70/125, on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes;

*d)* the WSIS+10 Statement on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and WSIS+10 vision for WSIS beyond 2015, adopted at the ITU‑coordinated WSIS+10 High-Level Event (Geneva, 2014) and endorsed by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014), which was submitted as an input into the overall review of WSIS by UNGA;

*e)* the UNGA Resolution A/78/L.49 on Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development, which is referencing the “UNGA Resolution 70/125 on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, all the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the Geneva Plan of Action, the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society”; and which “looks forward to the overall review by the General Assembly, in 2025, of the progress made since the World Summit on the Information Society”;

*f)* the relevant resolutions and decisions related to the implementation of relevant outcomes of both phases of WSIS and to international Internet-related public policy issues adopted by the Plenipotentiary Conference:

i) Resolution 70 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) on mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through information and communication technologies;

ii) Resolution 71 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the strategic plan for the Union for 2024-2027;

iii) Resolution 101 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks;

iv) Resolution 102 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses;

v) Resolution 130 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs);

vi) Resolution 131 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on measuring ICTs to build an integrating and inclusive information society;

vii) Resolution 133 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names;

viii) Resolution 139 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the use of telecommunications/ICTs to bridge the digital divide and build an inclusive information society;

ix) Resolution 140 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of WSIS and in the overall review by UNGA of their implementation;

x) Resolution 175 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference on telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs;

xi) Resolution 178 (Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on ITU's role in organizing the work on technical aspects of telecommunication networks to support the Internet;

xii) Resolution 200 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Connect 2030 Agenda for global telecommunications/ICT, including broadband, for sustainable development;

xiii) Resolution 214 (Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on the Artificial intelligence technologies and telecommunications/information and communication technologies,

*g)* the opinions of the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum;

*h)* the role of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU‑T) in ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes, adaptation of ITU's role and development of telecommunication standards in building the information society, including ITU's lead facilitation role in the WSIS implementation process, as a moderator/facilitator for implementing Action Lines C2, C5 and C6 and participating with other stakeholders, as appropriate, in the implementation of Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, C8, C9 and C11 and all other relevant action lines and other WSIS outcomes, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference;

*i)* that, despite the previous decade's achievements in ICT connectivity, many forms of digital divide remain, both between and within countries, and between women and men, that need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, as well as measures to improve digital literacy and skills and to promote cultural diversity;

*j)* that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations in accordance with §§ 35 *a)-e)* of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, as well as § 57 of the outcome document of the 2015 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes,

considering

*a)* that ITU has a pivotal role in providing a global perspective in regard to the information society;

*b)* that the Council Working Group on WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (CWG‑WSIS&SDG), in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) and with ITU Council Resolution 1332, first adopted by the ITU Council at its 2011 session and last modified at its 2024 session, open to all the ITU membership, constitutes an effective mechanism for facilitating Member State inputs on ITU implementation of relevant WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG‑Internet), in accordance with Resolution 1336, first adopted by the Council at its 2011 session and last modified at its 2019 session, open to Member States only, with open consultation of all stakeholders, was created in order to promote enhanced cooperation and to foster the participation of governments in addressing international Internet public policy issues;

*d)* that there is a perceived need to improve coordination, dissemination and interaction: (i) by avoiding duplication of efforts through focused coordination between ITU's relevant study groups that deal with international Internet public policy issues and technical aspects of telecommunication networks to support the Internet; (ii) by disseminating relevant international Internet public policy information to the ITU membership, the General Secretariat and the Bureaux; (iii) by promoting enhanced cooperation and technical-oriented interaction between ITU and other relevant international organizations and entities;

*e)* that Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) called for the ITU to allocate adequate resources to its activities, including WSIS staff and financial resources, to maintain effective implementation of the WSIS action lines and achieve the SDGs;

*f)* the implementation of the WSIS outcomes will contribute to promoting digital transformation and the development of the digital economy and achieving the SDGs;

*g)* that Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) instructs the Secretary-General in accordance with UNGA Resolution 76/307, to engage actively on issues related to the mandate of ITU in the preparatory process of the United Nations Summit of the Future, to be held on 22-23 September 2024, in New York;

*h)* that Resolution 140 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) emphasizes the core competences of ITU in the field of ICTs, namely assistance in bridging the digital divide, international and regional cooperation, radio spectrum management, standards development and the dissemination of information are of crucial importance for building the information society, as stated in § 64 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles;

*i)* that Resolution 102 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) in its *considering*, *recognizing* and *emphasizing* parts was inspired by the relevant WSIS outcomes in paragraphs 29-82 of the Tunis Agenda concerning Internet governance and resolved to explore ways and means for greater reciprocal collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations involved in the development of IP-based networks and the future internet, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community and promote affordable international connectivity,

recognizing

*a)* the commitment of ITU to implementing relevant WSIS outcomes and the WSIS vision beyond 2015, as one of the most important goals for the Union;

*b)* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has substantial implications for the activities of ITU;

*c)* the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action and Tunis Commitment and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society as inter-governmentally agreed global documents on information and communication technologies (ICTs) and digital technologies;

*d)* the WSIS process as the foundation of global digital cooperation supporting our shared vision of people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information and knowledge societies that fully respects and upholds the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*e)* the outputs of the relevant ITU-T study groups, particularly ITU-T SG15 and its follow-up on WSIS resolutions;

*f)* the TSB's successful coordination of discussions and sessions at the annual WSIS Forum events in 2023 and 2024, in collaboration with Global Cities Hub and other WSIS stakeholders, highlighting emerging urban challenges of digitalization and sharing expectations on regulatory needs and policy development;

*g)* the outcomes of the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024 and the Chair’s Summary calls for the:

i) continuous relevance of the WSIS Outcomes and the WSIS Action Lines that serves as a pertinent framework of discussion on digital governance issues;

ii) Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 review to complement and reinforce each other building on existing multistakeholder mechanisms like the WSIS Forum and IGF avoiding duplication of efforts,

recognizing further

*a)* that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet, while also recognizing the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders, as expressed in § 68 of the Tunis Agenda;

*b)* the potential of ICTs to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals;

*c)* that increased connectivity, innovation and access played a critical role in enabling progress on the SDGs;

*d)* the need to promote greater participation and engagement in Internet governance discussions of governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders from developing countries[[1]](#footnote-1)1;

*e)* the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues, as expressed in § 69 of the Tunis Agenda;

*f)* that, using relevant international organizations, such cooperation should include the development of globally applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources, in which regard the organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet are called upon to contribute to creating an environment that facilitates this development of public policy principles, as expressed in § 70 of the Tunis Agenda;

*g)* that §§ 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda called for the process towards enhanced cooperation to be started by the United Nations Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, to involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, to proceed as quickly as possible consistent with legal process, and to be responsive to innovation; and for relevant organizations to commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and responsive to innovation; and for the same relevant organizations to be requested to provide annual performance reports;

*h)* that various initiatives have been implemented and some progress has been made in relation to the process towards enhanced cooperation detailed in §§ 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda and that UNGA, in Resolution 70/125, called for continued dialogue and work on the implementation of enhanced cooperation, which is already under way in accordance with § 65 of that resolution;

*i)* that WSIS is an integral and dynamic process which has evolved over the years to be in keeping with technology changes, and that the WSIS framework is very inclusive and can adapt to new technology, e.g., AI, quite seamlessly,

taking into account

*a)* Resolution 30 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), on the role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution ITU‑R 61-3 (Rev. Dubai,2023) of the Radiocommunication Assembly, on the ITU Radiocommunication Sector's contribution in implementing the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*c)* the programmes, activities and regional initiatives being carried out in accordance with the decisions of WTDC-22 for bridging the digital divide;

*d)* the relevant work already accomplished and/or to be carried out by ITU under the guidance of CWG‑WSIS&SDG and CWG‑Internet;

*e)* the adaptable framework of WSIS, which has integrated new technologies that emerged in the last 20 years, including e-commerce, Web 2.0, cloud computing, IoT, etc., and continues to integrate new technologies like AI, quantum computing, and the Metaverse while addressing evolving digital challenges, including but not limited to, addressing the digital divide;

*o)* the dynamic evolution of the WSIS as a proven and continually evolving process that addresses the impact of new technologies and expands digital cooperation across various platforms, including the WSIS Forum and IGF on emerging technologies,

noting

*a)* Resolution 1332, first adopted by the Council at its 2011 session and last modified at its 2024 session, on ITU's role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution 1334, first adopted by the Council at its 2011 session and last modified at its 2023 session, on ITU's role in the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes;

*c)* Resolution 1344, first adopted by the Council at its 2012 session and last modified at its 2015 session, on the modality of open consultation for CWG‑Internet;

*d)* Resolution 1336, first adopted by the Council at its 2011 session and last modified at its 2019 session, on CWG‑Internet,

noting further

*a)* that the ITU Secretary-General created the ITU WSIS&SDG Task Force, whose role is to formulate strategies and coordinate ITU's policies and activities in relation to the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that this task force is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, as noted by Council Resolution 1332;

*b)* the consideration of the output of CWG-WSIS&SDG and CWG Internet by the relevant ITU-T study groups;

*c)* the successful coordination between the two events WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event and AI4Good Global Summit, hosted by ITU in the same week (27-31 May 2024) and the two communities;

*d)* the input submitted by the ITU on the Global Digital Compact (GDC), reflecting the ITU’s mandate, including on the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*e)* that the WSIS Forum 2025 should be branded as a WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 in Geneva and serve as a platform for discussion of the WSIS+20 review and the WSIS Action Lines and to take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges and opportunities since the Geneva Plan of Action,

resolves

1 to continue ITU‑T's work on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and the WSIS vision beyond 2015 and follow-up activities within its mandate;

2 that ITU‑T should contribute to achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through and in harmony with the WSIS framework;

3 that ITU‑T should carry out the activities under *resolves* 1 and 2 above in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

4 that the relevant ITU‑T study groups should continue to consider in their studies the output of CWG‑WSIS&SDG and CWG‑Internet;

5 to invite the members and other stakeholders to contribute views on the work of the ITU in the WSIS+20 review including ideas related to the review of the WSIS Action Lines through the CWG WSIS&SDG and to instruct the Secretary-General to take this into account in preparing ITU’s contribution to the UNGA Overall Review in 2025,instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to provide CWG‑WSIS&SDG with a comprehensive summary of ITU‑T activities on implementation of the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

2 to ensure that concrete objectives and deadlines for activities in connection with WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are developed and reflected in the operational plans of ITU‑T in accordance with Resolution 140 (Rev. Buchrest, 2022) and Council Resolution 1332;

3 in implementing the WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the mandate of ITU‑T, to pay special attention to the needs of the developing countries;

4 to provide information on emerging trends based on ITU‑T activities;

5 to take appropriate action to facilitate the activities for implementation of this resolution;

6 to submit contributions to the relevant annual reports of the ITU Secretary-General on these activities,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

1 to submit contributions to relevant ITU‑T study groups and to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group, where appropriate, and contribute to CWG‑WSIS&SDG on implementing WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the ITU mandate;

2 to support and collaborate with the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau in implementing relevant WSIS outcomes, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in ITU‑T;

3 to submit contributions to CWG‑WSIS&SDG;

4 to actively contribute to the WSIS+20 High-Level Event 2025 in Geneva, which will serve as a platform for discussion of the WSIS+20 review and the WSIS Action Lines and to take stock of the achievements and key trends, challenges and opportunities since the Geneva Plan of Action,

invites Member States

to submit contributions to CWG‑Internet,

invites all stakeholders

1 to participate actively in ITU WSIS implementation activities, including in ITU‑T, to support achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

2 to participate actively in the online and physical open consultations of CWG‑Internet.

1. 1 These include the least developed countries, small island developing states, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)