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| Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Member Administrations | | | |
| draft NEW RESOLUTION [APT-SDT] - ENHANCING THE STANDARDIZATION ACTIVITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This document contains a proposal for addition of a new ITU-T Resolution “Enhancing the standardization activities on Sustainable Digital Transformation”.  Sustainable digital transformation integrates sustainability with digital advancements, aiming for environmental and social benefits alongside business growth. It utilizes digital technology to promote a sustainable future and contribute positively to the planet's health. This approach combines digital and sustainable goals, ensuring digital innovation benefits society and the environment.  The draft Resolution proposes a proactive, inclusive strategy to develop ITU‑T Recommendations on sustainable digital transformation. The ITU-T seeks to bridge the digital divide and propel sustainable development via digital technology by uniting resources, crafting specific guidelines, and encouraging global cooperation. It highlights the need for collaboration across stakeholders, from governments to academia, to realize these objectives. | |
| **Contact:** | Mr. Masanori Kondo  Secretary General Asia-Pacific Telecommunity | E-mail: [aptwtsa@apt.int](mailto:aptwtsa@apt.int) |

Introduction

The ITU plays a significant role in promoting sustainable digital transformation through various initiatives. For instance, ITU organizes Sustainable Digital Transformation Dialogues, which provide a global platform for discussing policies and international standards that facilitate positive change​. Another initiative is the "Digital Transformation for People-Centered Cities" programme, which focuses on building inclusive, accessible, and sustainable digital futures for urban communities. This programme provides guidelines and strategies for city officials to implement smart, sustainable public procurement and improve public policy and governance.

Failing to pursue sustainable digital transformation risks exacerbating the digital and development divide, hindering economic growth and sustainability. The World Bank emphasizes the stark digital divide's impact, with significant portions of populations in low-income countries offline, limiting access to essential services and opportunities for growth. The Industrial Analytics Platform further highlights the challenges Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) face, including inadequate infrastructure and digital connectivity, which impede the uptake of digital technologies and economic transformation. Without addressing these barriers and fostering an inclusive digital ecosystem, developing countries risk missing out on the myriad benefits of the digital economy, thereby deepening global inequalities and thwarting progress toward sustainable development goals.

Proposal

APT Member Administrations propose a new WTSA Resolution (“Enhancing the standardization activities on Sustainable Digital Transformation”) to address the issues above and provide necessary ITU-T efforts.

ADD APT/37A44/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [APT-SDT] (New Delhi, 2024)

Enhancing the standardization activities on Sustainable Digital Transformation

(New Delhi, 2024)

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

recalling

*a)* that the ITU strategic plan for 2024-2027, approved by means of Resolution 71 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, establishes that Sustainable Digital Transformation is a strategic goal of the Union in facilitating progress towards the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

*b)* Resolution 44 (Geneva, 2022) of WTSA, Bridging the standardization gap between developed and developing countries;

*c)* Resolution 89 (Kigali, 2022) of WTDC, on Digital transformation for sustainable development and the Kigali action plan for 2022-2025;

*d)* Resolution 2 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), on the Scope of ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) study groups, indicates the title of Study Group 2 is digital transformation,

considering

*a)* that sustainable digital transformation aims to foster equitable and inclusive use of telecommunications/ICTs to empower people and societies for sustainable development, including by bridging the digital divide, improving online access, building digital skills, and improving telecommunications/ICT’s contribution to climate and environment action;

*b)* that digital transformation through utilizing the emerging telecommunications/ICTs, enabling new services and applications, and promoting the information society are key enablers for making progress towards sustainable development;

*c)* that at the initial stage of digital transformation, it is important to have ITU-T Recommendations, technical reports, guidelines, and best practices, which can assist digital transformation;

*d)* that there is a need for ITU-T to rapidly develop high-quality, demand-driven, interoperable, and non-discriminatory ITU-T Recommendations in line with the principles of global connectivity, openness, affordability, reliability, interoperability and security to boost sustainable digital transformation across all of society, and to generate confidence for further investments in this process;

*e)* that there is also a need to extend and facilitate international cooperation on sustainable digital transformation to avoid duplication of work and achieve efficient use of resources,

taking into account

*a)* that the ITU-T members could benefit immensely from sustainable digital transformation by developing and applying ITU-T Recommendations;

*b)* that development and implementation of ITU-T Recommendations require broad participation and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders, especially from industries and societies with urgent digital transformation needs;

*c)* that ITU-T is closely coordinating with ITU-D Study Group 2 to achieve sustainable digital transformation for developing countries by implementing ITU-T Recommendations,

resolves

1 to effectively consolidate all guidelines, Recommendations, technical reports, best practices and use cases developed by ITU-T which could facilitate global sustainable digital transformation, through the use of ITU web-based tools, and to identify strategies and mechanisms to assist Member States in using these tools to hasten the use of this knowledge proactively;

2 to foster cooperation and collaboration within the Union and with other relevant stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices, and explore common understandings on standardization aspects related to sustainable digital transformation, including, but not limited to, demand, usage scenarios, interoperability, and ecosystem;

3 to promote the timely development of guidelines to assist with the implementation of ITU‑T Recommendations, particularly those related to sustainable digital transformation and its evaluation, and build capacity in the implementation of such ITU-T Recommendations;

4 to encourage the participation of members, particularly Academia, from developing countries in ITU-T's activities on sustainable digital transformation, including through, whenever possible, the holding of workshops, study group meetings and other meetings in the regions,

resolves to instruct the Director of Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

to work closely with the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in order to provide developing countries with assistance to enhance capacity building in standardization activities on sustainable digital transformation, including through collaboration with the relevant academia, wide range of expert communities and other stakeholders,

instructs ITU-T study groups and TSAG

1 to develop ITU-T Recommendations, including relevant terminologies and definitions, that can lead to sustainable digital transformation across different industries and technologies within ITU’s mandate;

2 to organize the necessary work and studies to effectively contribute to global United Nations efforts to enhance sustainable digital transformation, within their individual mandates;

3 to develop and promote guidelines, models, and Recommendations to leverage digital technologies, applications, services, and platforms related to telecommunications/ICTs, to drive sustainable digital transformation;

4 to coordinate and collaborate with relevant stakeholders, in particular, those stakeholders with primary responsibility for developing, implementing and capacity building of standards in the area of sustainable digital transformation, and with other groups within ITU, especially ITU-D SG2,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associate Members and Academia

1 to contribute to the study and to actively participate in the standardization activities related to sustainable digital transformation;

2 to facilitate interoperability of sustainable digital transformation.