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| **9 May 2017** |
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| Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) | | |
| Input from the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) | | |
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# Inter-Sectoral Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF)

## Background

* 1. Following a review of the internal task forces, committees and groups, an Inter-Sector Coordination Task Force (ISC-TF) has been established in 2015, to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the three Bureaux and the General Secretariat, with a view to avoid internal duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources. The Terms of Reference of the Inter-Sectoral Task Force (ISC-TF) were specified in Service Order No.16/13 (see Council Info Doc.19 – [C17-INF-19](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-CL-INF-0019/en)).
  2. According to its ToRs, the group is mandated to:

1. Promote a coordinated work in the areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors and the General Secretariat, promoting synergies and introducing efficiencies and savings in the use of the ITU resources;
2. Without limiting the generality of the point a), coordinate the work on the topics covered by the subsumed internal task forces, committees and groups (namely Climate Change and Emergency Telecommunications Task Force, Accessibility Task Force, Intersectoral Communications Group (ICG), Web Editorial Board (WEB),Intersectoral Resource Mobilization Group (IRM), Gender Task Force, Task Force on Event Coordination and Bridging the Standards Gap Task Force), as well as on implementation of the Connect 2020 Global Agenda for Telecommunication/ICT development, operational planning and risk management;
3. Follow-up on the progress and results achieved in each area and report back to the Coordination Committee (CoCo) through the Management Coordination Group (MCG);
4. Appoint Focal Points responsible for coordinating the intersectoral work in each area that comes within its terms of reference, and coordinate assignment of staff members and resources from the Bureaux and General Secretariat for intersectoral work. The members of the subsumed task forces, referred to in b) above, will continue to act as the thematic focal points for their respective Bureau/Department;
5. Ensure the design of a coordination and cooperation strategy for effective and efficient efforts in areas of mutual interest to the three ITU Sectors, in order to avoid duplication of effort and optimize the use of resources, as per the instructions of Resolution 191 (Busan, 2014), including coordination with the Inter Sectoral Coordination Team on Issues of Mutual Interest in collaboration with the RAG, TSAG and TDAG secretariats; and
6. Identify and propose any other organizational improvement measures and mechanisms, with a view to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.
   1. The ISC-TF, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, has held 17 meetings since March 2015, with the participation of the:
7. Deputies to the Directors of the three Bureaux and the Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department,
8. Intersectoral Focal Points responsible for specific thematic areas,
9. Regional Directors,
10. Chiefs of Departments of the General Secretariat,
11. As an observer, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit, and
12. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Chiefs of Departments of the Bureaux.
    1. The areas of inter-sectoral interest coordinated by ISC-TF include the topics of:

* Climate change,
* Emergency telecommunications,
* Accessibility,
* Communications and Web editorial,
* Resource mobilization,
* Gender,
* Events Coordination, and
* Bridging the Standards Gap.
  1. The group undertakes the following tasks:
* Facilitates the exchange of information among the Sectors and the General Secretariat on those thematic areas, by updating the group and discussing the progress achieved. As a result the inter-sectoral thematic ITU web pages are kept up-to-date with the most relevant information on ITU’s activities;
* Produces consolidated annual Work Plans per thematic area, improving cross-sectoral planning and ensuring that information on the activities undertaken on all thematic areas is shared more widely;
* Discusses and proposed solutions for the key issues raised by the focal points, with a clear advantage being that the issues could be properly escalated if decisions could not be taken or resolved at the focal point level;
* Leverages the participation and contribution of the Regional Offices, which participate through remote participation to the ISC-TF discussions;
* Coordinates ITU’s participation in conferences and fora with the aim to reduce participation but ensure ITU-wide interests were represented;
* Facilitates better coordination of organization of ITU events and meetings, through informing all colleagues of plans and intentions;
* Reviews JIU reports’ recommendations, identifying focal points, and required action.

## Results of the work of the group

* 1. The group has discussed and proposed solutions for the issues raised for all the inter-sectoral topics, as brought-up and presented by the lead focal points. A non-exhaustive indicative list of issues raised during the ISC-TF meetings and results achieved includes:
* *Climate Change*: the group coordinated the ITU participation at the COP21 in Paris and COP22 in Marrakesh, and ITU’s participation at the UN Habitat III Conference (17-20 October, in Quito, Ecuador);
* *Emergency telecommunications*: the Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications: Saving Lives (GET-2016 –January 26-28), and the ITU preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, May 23 and 24, 2016).
* *Accessibility*: the group in 2015 discussed the preparation of the proposals, presentation of the candidate projects and selection of the projects to be funded by the Accessibility fund. In 2016 and 2017, ISC-TF reviewed the implementation of the Accessibility Fund and approved a second round of funding for a project that would increase the participation of experts on ICT accessibility in selected meetings of ITU Study Groups.
* *Communications*: ISC-TF discussed the new ITU Global Communications Strategy 2016-2019 elaborated in alignment with the SDG framework and Connect 2020, and elaborated the guidelines and policy for the production of photography and videos, introducing the relevant procedures and forms.
* *Web editorial*: the group discussed the issue and challenges of simultaneous translation of web pages in all languages, and initiated the related pilots. The group coordinated the development of the Guidelines for web pages translation, following the decision by Council-16. A report was presented to the CWG on Languages meeting in January.
* *Resource mobilization*: the group discussed proposals to engage with membership; introduced new detailed reporting on the status of Sector Membership by Sector and Region; discussed the results of the ITU digital transformation workshop; and reviewed the preparation of the new Draft of Sponsorship Guidelines, which were then approved by MCG.
* *Gender*: the group initiated and reviewed the development of the Gender Dashboard, a continuously evolving snapshot of the current situation of women in ITU and ICT Sector, measuring also the ITU commitments to the International Gender Champions initiative. The group put forward a project proposal to achieve gender equality in ITU panels, by monitoring and fostering participation of female speakers/panelists in ITU events.
* *Events coordination*: consolidated calendars were updated for 2016-2019 and overall event coordination resulted in co-located events.
* *Bridging the Standards Gap*: programme of ‘hands-on’ training for delegates during regional meetings on how to participate and defend their positions in study group meetings.
  1. The group contributed to a transparent and effective coordination of the inter-sectoral activities; by publishing and updating information on the relevant ITU web pages on the thematic areas, presenting ITU’s work and activities carried out by the three Sectors and the General Secretariat (e.g. [Climate Change](http://www.itu.int/en/action/environment-and-climate-change/Pages/ITU-Activities.aspx), [Accessibility](http://www.itu.int/en/action/accessibility/Pages/default.aspx) and [Gender Equality](http://www.itu.int/en/action/gender-equality/Pages/default-backup16feb2024.aspx) web pages);
  2. ISC-TF also coordinated the responses to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) review of ITU’s management and administration, by reporting to Council 2016 and continued the work on the planning and follow-up process for the implementation of all the formal and informal recommendations. The Action Plan and the status of implementation have been submitted to the 2017 Session of Council.
  3. The group coordinated the implementation of the previous JIU UN system-wide recommendations, with impressive results in the acceptancy and implementation status of previous JIU recommendations from 2006-2014: the acceptance status of JIU recommendations for ITU raised from ~50% to ~90%, and JIU Recommendations ‘under consideration’ by ITU, dropped from ~42% to around ~2%.
  4. The group facilitated the work on Risk Management, by coordinating the review of the risk registers for the Sectors and the General Secretariat reflected in the Operational Plans presented to Council in 2016. The group reviewed the Draft Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement, which was elaborated through a dedicated working group. The draft documents were presented to the CWG-FHR and have been submitted for review and approval to the 2017 Session of Council.
  5. The group initiated the work on an ITU-wide business recovery and continuity plan, as identified by the risk assessment process and set-up a project team to develop a business recovery and continuity plan in the event of lack of physical access to the ITU HQ and Regional Office buildings.
  6. ISC-TF initiated the SDG project team in 2015 to coordinate ITU’s work and contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and which, following the decisions by Council 2016 and the related discussions at MCG, was merged with the WSIS task force.
  7. The group reviewed the challenges of storing data in the cloud, through a project team set-up to address the issue.
  8. ISC-TF coordinated the process for measuring data for the outcome indicators for the ITU Annual Report 2016 through a dedicated web site.
  9. The group reviewed the development of the Draft Accountability Framework, as a response to the relevant JIU recommendation.

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