ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the
National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) of Romania and
cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)

22-23 May 2023
Timisoara, Romania

Remote participation at http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23
(Meeting held back-to-back with Com-ITU of CEPT – 24-26 May 2023)

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-EUR P2C Roundtables and
it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: UNESCO and ITU

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TITLE: United Nations Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs (UNBT Digital TF)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

Considering the European Commission's priority on digital for development channelled through, among others, the "Global Gateway", "A Europe fit for the Digital Age", or the "Digital Compass 2030", it is highly strategic for UN agencies to engage in a collaborative process and align their positions regarding the digital transition to create a powerful advocacy mechanism. The UN in Brussels shares the emphasis and attention of the European Union (EU) on the life-changing opportunities digital transformation offers. As mentioned in the Report of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the role of digital technologies in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals goes far beyond simply promoting greater access to the internet. With the right blend of policy, investment in infrastructure and human capacity, as well as cooperation among stakeholders, digital technologies can revolutionize fields as diverse as health, education, governance, economic empowerment, enterprise, agriculture, security, and environmental sustainability.

In this regard, the UNBT Digital TF is committed to putting in place the conditions to realize this scenario through fostering cooperation and collaboration with the EU. The UNBT Digital TF, co-led by ITU and UNESCO, is one of the various Task Forces of the UN Brussels Team, created to allow agencies to have informed and coherent engagement vis-a-vis the overarching priorities of the European Commission (EC). In this sense, the UNBT Digital TF gathers about 20 UN Agencies[1] and represents a coordination mechanism and advocacy platform through which the different UN agencies work to

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[1] FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNLOPS, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRIC, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, UNU Merit, UN Women, IOM, WFP, WHO, and the World Bank (as of May 2023).

facilitate common understanding, information sharing, institutional learning, and interaction with the EU and development partners in an effective manner. The overall objective of the UNBT Digital TF is, therefore, to enhance efficiencies, improve coherence and reduce transaction costs for the UN (should it be at the national, regional, or global level), implementing partners and other stakeholders, to facilitate the delivery as "one" on digital-related issues.

The UNBT Digital TF is in particular committed to:

- Determine commonalities and synergies in the EU and UN scope of work for coordination and possible joint EU-UN action, including through facilitating the identification of relevant expertise and connecting relevant UN and EU mechanisms and related focal points; so that together we can foster access, adoption, value creation, and accelerate digital development;
- Facilitate the development of common positions on EU's proposals and actions on digital issues and advocate as "One UN" in a coordinated and effective manner to push Agenda 2030 further at the EU level;
- Identify opportunities for the EU to leverage the UN as an implementation mechanism for advancing digital development at the national, regional, and global levels;
- Create opportunities to engage with EU partners on the global dimensions of digitalization and create synergies among UN agencies to determine how we can contribute to the formulation and implementation of digital-related policies;
- Share information, intelligence, and analysis of key EU policy proposals and actions on digital issues flagging the most recent updates at the EU and international levels.

Since 2022, the UNBT Digital TF is holding a series of EU-UN Digital Thematic Dialogues with the EC, to express views on how to concretely collaborate in areas of common interest, support each other, brief the EU on the ongoing work, and best practices of the UN, and vice versa, to keep a cohesive approach towards alignment of strategies, as well exchange on policy and implementation challenges and opportunities.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

Global

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ 2023

☒ 2024

☒ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ EUR1: Digital infrastructure development

☒ EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

☒ EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

☒ EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

☒ EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☐ **Affordable connectivity**

☐ **Digital Transformation**

☐ **Enabling policy and regulatory environment**

☐ **Resource mobilization and international cooperation**

☐ **Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development**

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

☐ **Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services**

☐ **International telecommunication numbering resources**

☐ **Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services**

☐ **Digital applications**

☐ **Enabling environment**

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

☒ C2: Information and communication infrastructure

☒ C3: Access to information and knowledge

☒ C4: Capacity building

☒ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

☒ C6: Enabling environment

☒ C7: ICT applications

☒ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

☒ C9: Media

☒ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society

☒ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ SDG 1: No Poverty

☒ SDG 2: Zero Hunger

☒ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being

☒ SDG 4: Quality Education

☒ SDG 5: Gender Equality

☒ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

☒ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

☒ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

☒ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☒ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

☒ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

☒ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

☒ SDG 13: Climate Action

☒ SDG 14: Life Below Water

☒ SDG 15: Life on Land

☒ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

☒ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs