**Canada**

**Comments on ITU Council Contribution to the 2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**

Canada would like to thank the Chairman of the CWG-WSIS&SDG and the ITU Secretariat, and is pleased to provide the following comments:

1. The deadline established for the ITU’s submission of a contribution to the HLPF did not allow Council Member States the opportunity for a full review, analysis, discussion, negotiation and approval of the contribution, including on the new language on cybersecurity under Section B: “The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges”. This situation is an anomaly, and effective measures need to be taken so that future contributions to the HLPF allow Member States at the relevant Council session the exercise of their right to a full analysis, discussion, negotiation and approval of the contribution.
2. The draft paragraph on cybersecurity that appeared in rev.2 of the document was posted on February 1st after the conclusion of the CWG-WSIS&SDG meeting, and consequently providing no opportunity for an interactive discussion.
3. The draft paragraph on cybersecurity should be framed along the lines of WSIS Action Line C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs) where the ITU’s mandate resides.
4. Canada has concerns with the statement to the effect that “Therefore one cannot have a few countries working together in ensuring security of their infrastructure.” Although we understand the intended logic behind this statement, there should be only one clear and unambiguous sentence to that effect: **Collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders is key for strengthening confidence and security in the use of ICTs**.
5. Consequently Canada suggests the deletion of the followings sentences:
   * In many cases the attacks can be mounted from any part of the world to any part of the world. Therefore the weakest link analogy applies well here. You are as strong as your weakest link.
   * Therefore one cannot have a few countries working together in ensuring security of their infrastructure. It is important to help everyone reach at least an appropriate level of security capacity in order to avoid weak links that can be exploited.
   * Cybersecurity therefore requires the use of preventive and reactive security measures as well as the deployment of capabilities to proactively manage the risks.
6. Canada looks forward to addressing the issue of future ITU contributions to the HLPF at the upcoming 2019 Session of ITU Council.