



United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

Task Force on Strengthening Financial Mechanisms for Digital Development

Terms of Reference

1. Background and mandate

The Outcome of the WSIS+20 overall review in the paragraph 67 of General Assembly resolution A/RES/80/173 outlines as follows:

“We invite the International Telecommunication Union, as the secretariat of the United Nations Group on the Information Society, working with the World Summit action line facilitators and other members of the Group, within existing resources, to establish an internal task force to conduct an assessment of gaps and challenges and to submit concrete recommendations on strengthening financial mechanisms for digital development for developing countries, building on and complementing existing best practices, including those of multilateral financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector. We further request that the work be completed and the outcomes of the work be reported to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirtieth session, in 2027, for consideration by Member States. We also invite the internal task force to monitor financial commitments for the implementation of these outcomes.”

Pursuant to this mandate, ITU, in its capacity as UNGIS secretariat, has established [the Task Force](#) as an internal mechanism of UNGIS, working with the WSIS Action Line facilitators and other members of the Group.

2. Objectives

In line with paragraph 67, the Task Force will:

- (a) conduct an assessment of gaps and challenges;
- (b) develop concrete, actionable recommendations on strengthening financial mechanisms, building on and complementing existing best practices, building on and complementing existing best practices, including those of multilateral financial institutions, development partners and other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector;
- (c) monitor financial commitments made for the implementation of the outcomes.

4. Membership and composition

All UNGIS members and observers were invited by ITU as UNGIS Secretariat, including through an official letter of the Secretary-General, to nominate an expert for the Task Force.

Membership is open to all UNGIS members and observers. Participation is voluntary: each entity nominates working-level focal points with the expertise in digital financing for development.

5. Working methods

- Meetings will be held virtually, unless otherwise agreed.

- Decisions are taken by consensus.
- Documents will be shared electronically through UNGIS channels.
- ITU as the UNGIS Secretariat supports and coordinates the work of the Task Force: it convenes meetings and keeps records; maintains the webpage, repository and commitments tracker; and prepares the transmission of outcomes to the CSTD and updates to UNGIS.
- The Task Force works within existing resources; participation entails no financial obligations.

6. Deliverables and timeline

The deliverable as mandated in para. 67 of A/RES/80/173 to be submitted to CSTD in April 2027.

The timeline will include open consultations and briefings with stakeholders, specifically with multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and UNGIS Multistakeholder Consultation Group (MCG)

7. Reporting

The outcomes are to be reported to the CSTD at its thirtieth session, in April 2027. The Task Force provides progress updates to UNGIS meetings and will present its work at the annual WSIS Forum.