|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Council 2017 Geneva, 15-25 May 2017** |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Agenda item: PL 1.1** | **Document C17/8-E** |
| **14 March 2017** |
| **Original: English** |
| Report by the Chairman of the Council Working Group on the  World Summit on the Information Society (CWG-WSIS) | |
| REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE CWG-WSIS ACTIVITIES SINCE COUNCIL-16 | |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary  This report summarizes the main results of the 29th and 30th meetings of the Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS), held on 12-13 October 2016 and 7-8 February 2017 in line with Resolution 140 (Rev. Busan, 2014).  Action required  The Council is invited to **consider** the recommendations in the report.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  References  *UNGA Resolution 70/125, A/70/1, A/71/212, A/70/299, and A/70/684; UN ECOSOC Resolution E/RES/2016/22, Plenipotentiary Conference* [*Resolution 140*](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Documents/ITUPP14_RESOLUTION_140.pdf) *(Busan, 2014) and* [*172*](http://www.itu.int/council/groups/wsis/docs/resolutions/PP10-Res-172.pdf) *(Guadalajara, 2010); Council Resolution* [*1332*](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-CL-C-0127/en) *and* [*1336*](https://www.itu.int/md/S15-CL-C-0113/en)*; WTSA-16 Resolution* [*75*](http://www.itu.int/pub/T-RES-T.75-2016)*; Reports of 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th CWG-WSIS meetings; WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes; WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015; Final WSIS Target Review; WSIS+10 Report: ITU’s Ten Year contribution to the WSIS Implementation and Follow-up (2005-2014).* |

**1. Introduction**

Since Council-16, the ITU Council Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS) held two meetings. The 29th meeting was held on 12-13 October 2016 and the 30th meeting on 7-8 February 2017. The work of the WG-WSIS is conducted in line with Resolution 140 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (Rev. Busan, 2014), and consequently Council Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016). The Terms of Reference of the WG-WSIS are listed in the Annex to the Council Resolution 1332. The meetings were chaired by Prof. Dr Vladimir Minkin (Russian Federation), the Chairman of the WG-WSIS.

The meetings considered 33 documents, including two contributions by the Russian Federation and one by Mexico.

**2. ITU’s activities in WSIS facilitation, implementation and follow-up, including activities according to the ITU Operational Plans**

**2.1** At the 29th and 30th meetings of the CWG-WSIS, the Group considered 20 contributions (available at the [CWG-WSIS website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)). Secretariat contributions included information on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of WSIS Outcomes, WSIS Action Line Roadmaps, WSIS Forums, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes, WSIS Fund in Trust, WSIS-SDG Matrix, World Telecommunication/Information Society Day, UN Group on the Information Society, and Partnership on Measuring the ICT for Development. Contributions from Member States included the following:

* Contributions from the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-29/17](http://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=S16-WSIS29-C-0017); [WG-WSIS-30/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0013/en)) on ITU’s contribution towards ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and Proposals for the WG-WSIS Report to Council-17
* Contribution from Mexico ([WG-WSIS-30/14](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0014/en)): Update on the outcomes of the IGF, 6-9 December 2016, Mexico

**2.2** **The Group took note of all the documents with appreciation and suggests the following:**

**2.2.1** **WSIS Forum 2017**

* While appreciating the addition of the hackathon component to the WSIS Forums, ITU membership is encouraged to identify universities and the communities of young coders to participate in the hackathon.
* The secretariat was asked to improve the description of the WSIS Forum Outcome Document in order to avoid perception that the WSIS Forum is a negotiation and decision-making body.
* The secretariat was invited to explore the possible ways to strengthen multilingualism at the WSIS Forum while ITU membership and other stakeholders were encouraged to contribute financially or through bartering to defray the costs of interpretation and translation.
* The Group took note of the theme for the WSIS Forum 2017: Information and Knowledge Societies for SDGs.
* The secretariat was requested to strengthen communication on the way stakeholders may submit their requests for the workshops through the WSIS Forum formal submission form. An explanatory note might be needed for new stakeholders, as currently it may not be obvious.
* The secretariat was requested to take into account the results of the annual ITU Regional Development Forums on ICT for Sustainable Development and WSIS implementation-related events, in preparation towards the WSIS Forum.
* While appreciating all the efforts directed by the WSIS secretariat towards ensuring an appropriate level of accessibility at the WSIS Forum 2016, it was underlined that accessibility should remain a priority of the preparations towards the WSIS Forum 2017. Membership was invited to contribute financially and in terms of content towards this effort. It is also encouraged to include persons with disabilities and specific needs whenever possible in both the preparation of and the participation in the WSIS Forum.
* Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute to the financial effort of organization of the WSIS Forum, considering the partnership packages proposed by the secretariat.

**2.2.2** **WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix**

* The Group took note of the follow-up actions by the UN agencies on the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs Matrix, encouraging the secretariat to continue working in close collaboration with relevant UN agencies.
* The secretariat was requested to explore the ways to visualize the link to ITU Connect 2020 Agenda.
* The Group recommended that the secretariat strengthen the efforts of linking the WSIS-SDG matrix developed by the UN agencies with the ongoing exercise of the WSIS Stocktaking and Prizes, seeking validation of relationships proposed by UN agencies, simultaneously transforming the WSIS-SDG matrix into an evidence-based, regularly updated (i.e. after UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 19, 23 and 27) guiding tool.

**2.2.3** **ITU contribution to the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes Report**

* It was felt that such a document is very useful for capturing the major efforts of ITU in context of WSIS. The secretariat was requested to better reflect the impact and the result orientation of the activities in future reports.
* It was noted that the Report brings forth several activities that are carried out in collaboration with other UN agencies, strengthening the One UN approach.
* In the WSIS Forum’s section of the Report, the secretariat was requested to present a breakdown of the WSIS Forum participants by stakeholder type and regions.
* In addition the Group proposed to Council-17:
  + to note with appreciation the final version of the 2016 Report on ITU’s contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes, updated ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, C6, and the ITU Mapping Tool for SDG-Connect 2020-WSIS Action Lines, as an internal tool for reporting on ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS-SDG-Connect 2020.
  + to recommend that the secretariat:
    - reflect in the annual Report of ITU contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes activities and projects in response to expected results of ITU activities, according to the ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Line C2, C5, C6;
    - reflect in the annual Report concrete figures for the assessment of Connect 2020 goals and targets;
  + to request ITU to strengthen, through the regional offices and support of the General Secretariat, together with relevant regional organizations, coordination at the regional level with the UN Economic Regional Commissions and UN Regional Development Group, as well as all UN agencies (in particular those acting as facilitator for WSIS Action Lines), under the process of implementation of WSIS outcomes and SDGs with the aim of:
    - advancing the alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes as requested by the UNGA Resolution 70/125;
    - strengthening implementation of ICTs for SDG actions through delivering as the One UN approach;
    - seeking ways to take into account ICTs during the programming of UNDAFs (UN Development Assistance Framework);
    - seeking partnerships for the implementation of interagency and multistakeholder projects, advancing implementation of WSIS Action Lines and advancing achievement of SDGs;
    - highlighting the importance of advocacy for ICTs in national sustainable development plans;
    - strengthening regional input to the WSIS Forum, WSIS Prizes, and WSIS Stocktaking.

**2.2.4** **WSIS Stocktaking**

* The regional reports were appreciated as useful documents to get an overview of the actions carried out in the region and reported to the stocktaking database. It was underlined that regional coordination mechanisms should be better engaged in the future. Stakeholders were encouraged to contribute on their projects to the stocktaking mechanism at the regional level.
* The upgrade of the WSIS Stocktaking database functionalities was noted, in particular the impact of the reported actions on the relevant SDGs, thereby facilitating alignment of WSIS and SDG processes.
* The offering of embeddable interfaces was appreciated.

**2.2.5** **WSIS Prizes**

* Membership was encouraged to submit their projects to the contest, providing an opportunity for identification of best practices and sharing of knowledge at the global level. The submissions to the respective action lines will clearly show the contribution of the project towards achieving the SDGs. The secretariat was requested to continue collaboration with UN agencies on this activity.

**2.2.6** **WSIS Roadmaps for AL C2, C5, C6**

* The Group took note of the document concluding that it should be considered by advisory groups during their discussions on the contribution of the Sectors to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.

**2.2.7** **WSIS Fund in Trust**

* The Group took note of the contributions made by stakeholders in 2016 with appreciation including UAE, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Poland, Rwanda, ICANN, IEEE, IFIP, ISOC, Swiss Engineering, and VimpleCom. These contributions helped defray the operational costs of the WSIS Forum 2016.
* All stakeholders were encouraged to consider contributing to the WSIS Fund in Trust for WSIS Forum 2017.

**3. ITU’s activities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**3.1** At the 29th and 30th meetings of the CWG-WSIS, the Group considered 6 contributions (available at the [CWG-WSIS website](http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-wsis/Pages/default.aspx)). Secretariat contributions included information on ITU contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Draft ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum 2017, Updated Roadmap for ITU's activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG Mapping Tool, #ICT4SDG Campaign.

Contributions from Member States included two documents from the Russian Federation ([WG-WSIS-29/17](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS29-C-0017/en); [WG-WSIS-30/13](https://www.itu.int/md/S17-WSIS30-C-0013/en)) on ITU contribution towards ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and Proposals for the WG-WSIS Report to Council-17.

**3.2** **The Group discussed the contributions, expressed its appreciation and supported the proposals as follows:**

* Information on the side events held at the HLPF should be submitted to the Group for its consideration.
* A mapping tool should be accessible to all stakeholders.
* Suggestions were made to include in the communications campaign items related to how standardization activities and radio-frequency spectrum management contribute to achieving the SDGs. The secretariat should explore the possibility of providing the tool in the six UN languages.
* The secretariat should present the relevant SDG roadmap at the 30th Meeting of the WG-WSIS.
* Request the General Secretariat and three Bureaux to take into account themes and relevant sets of SDGs for the HLPF on Sustainable Development in 2017, 2018 and 2019 under developing operational plans, roadmaps and strategic plan.
* Request the secretariat to submit a preliminary draft ITU report to HLPF-17 for consideration at the 30th meeting of WG-WSIS.
* Invite Member States, Sector Members, and all other stakeholders to actively contribute to ITU activities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
* To recommend that the draft ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development take into account the set of goals to be reviewed in depth at HLPF-17.
* To recommend the secretariat to include activities for preparation to HLPF UNGA/ECOSOC in Updated Roadmap for ITU’s activities to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
* The Group thanked the secretariat for the elaboration of the very exhaustive draft ITU Council contribution to the High-Level Political Forum and made the following comments:
  + The document should start with a general introduction explaining ITU’s and ICTs’ contribution to SDGs, recognizing the need to harness the role of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development, followed by a short section focused on the SDGs under consideration by HLPF-17;
  + The document should be less detailed and more high-level;
  + It should reflect what ITU is doing in context of SDGs, especially in 2016;
  + The document should provide more statistics and evidence;
  + Use to the extent possible the SDG Mapping Tool;
  + Section Five could focus on major areas and frameworks where guidance from the HLPF would be helpful, such as:
    - How to build effective public/private partnerships?
    - How to recognize and harness the role of ICTs as cross-cutting enablers for sustainable development?
    - How to build an enabling environment for investment?
* The contribution is an opportunity to promote the important role that ICTs play as an enabler of sustainable development. The contribution should be more focused on the SDGs that the HLPF will review in depth, in particular Goals 5 and 9. It should concentrate on the most important high-level points and not go into too many details;
* Structure needs to follow the template provided by the UN.
* The following timeline was agreed for the preparation of the final version of the ITU Council contribution to HLPF-17.
  + Revised draft will be prepared by the secretariat by 24 February, addressing all comments provided during the WG-WSIS, and posted on the WSIS website.
  + Membership to provide comments to the secretariat by 10 March.
  + The secretariat to post the final draft on CWG-WSIS website by 24 March.
  + Membership to provide final comments to the secretariat by 7 April.
  + The secretariat submits the final text to UN before the deadline of 28 April.

**4 Conclusions**

The Chairman extended his personal thanks to all the ITU membership who participated in the work of the 29th and 30th meetings of WG-WSIS. The Group thanked all who contributed to the work of WG-WSIS and WSIS Process. Appreciations were expressed towards Mr Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary-General, Mr Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General and Chairman of the ITU WSIS Task Force, Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of BDT, Mr Chaesub Lee, Director of TSB, and Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Chief of SPM. Appreciations were also expressed for assistance by the secretariat, in particular Mr Jaroslaw Ponder and Ms Gitanjali Sah.

The Group expressed its thanks to Dr Vladimir Minkin, Chairman of the WG-WSIS, for his efficient chairmanship and guidance.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_