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| Report by ITU Secretary General  |
| comprehensive report detailing the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS Implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  |

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| SummaryThis report provides information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.Action requiredThe Council is invited to **consider** 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); Annual Reports (2010-2016) on ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes.* |

**1. Introduction**

The year 2015 marked a significant milestone for the WSIS process and the global debate on the role of ICTs for sustainable development. UNGA Overall Review on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (Resolution A/70/125) agreed on the continuation of the WSIS process beyond 2015 while identifying fresh priorities for the implementation of WSIS towards 2025. In addition, in 2015 the UN Sustainable Development Summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which acknowledges the important contribution that ICTs can make to delivering on the aspirational, transformational, and universal targets of the post-2015 framework and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with the call of UNGA for a close alignment between WSIS and SDG processes, Council-16 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps achieve the 2030 Agenda.

This report provides information on the activities, actions, and engagements that the Union is undertaking in context to the WSIS implementation and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**2. ITU’s activities in relationship to the WSIS implementation**

In line with the Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), on the annual basis, ITU elaborates a comprehensive report on *ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes,* providing an overview of ITU activities and projects undertaken in the context of the implementation of WSIS Outcomes, also related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2016 edition of the report provides detailed information on the key WSIS-related initiatives and activities carried out by the three sectors of the Union (Standardization, Radiocommunication and the Development Sectors) and the General Secretariat, at the operational and policy level, covering all assigned mandates with reference to the WSIS Process, in particular:

* Lead facilitator (along with UNESCO and UNDP) in coordinating the multistakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action;
* Lead coordinator and organizer of the annual WSIS Forum, including WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meeting;
* Facilitator of Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs); upon the UNDP’s request, ITU accepted to play the role of the Facilitator of Action Line C6 (Enabling Environment);
* Co-facilitator of Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7 and C11; and partner for C8 and C9;
* Rotating chair of the United Nations Group on Information Society (UNGIS);
* Lead and steering committee member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Measurement;
* Facilitator of the WSIS Stocktaking process;
* Initiator and facilitator of the WSIS Project Prize;
* Implementation of other WSIS outcomes.

With the aim of highlighting importance of the WSIS Action Lines C2 (Information and Communication Infrastructure), AL C5 (Building Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs), and AL C6 (Enabling Environment) – where ITU is playing the role of sole facilitator and implementer –and their contribution to the SDGs, the WSIS Action Lines Roadmaps were updated in 2016. They provide a broad vision and detailed overview of the activities planned within the mandate of the Union also showing clear linkages with the SDGs. These Roadmaps are developed upon the operational plans of sectors to serve as a quick reference and guiding tool on ITU’s efforts on WSIS Action Lines as facilitator and implementer. Direct links between the activities and the strategic goals and relevant resolutions, programmes and initiatives of ITU are highlighted and also clearly display the linkages with the SDGs. ITU Roadmaps for WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, and C6 are available at <http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Roadmaps.aspx>

The annual reports on the *ITU’s Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes* has been submitted to the Council Working Group on WSIS (CWG-WSIS) for information and are considered as the official submissions from ITU for different internal and external meetings related to the WSIS process, including UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

The 2016 Report as well as the previouseditions of the *ITU Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes* Reports are available at:
<http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx>

Council-16 resolved to use the WSIS framework as the foundation through which ITU helps to achieve the 2030 Agenda, within ITU’s mandate and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget, noting the WSIS-SDG Matrix developed by UN Agencies, working through the CWG-WSIS.

To this end ITU-led WSIS activities, including WSIS Forum, WSIS Stocktaking, WSIS Prizes have been aligned to the SDGs. In addition ITU continues to coordinate the *WSIS Action Lines and SDG Matrix*([www.wsis.org/sdgs](http://www.wsis.org/sdgs)), a tool developed by a number of United Nations agencies to map how ICTs may contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. The Matrix serves as an easy reference for stakeholders engaged in shaping the future of both the SDGs and the WSIS processes beyond 2015 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The WSIS Stocktaking process ([www.wsis.org/stocktaking](http://www.wsis.org/stocktaking)) continues collecting information on actions, projects, programmes, and initiatives implemented by all stakeholders related to WSIS and the SDGs, while providing concrete proof of impact of particular WSIS Action Lines on SDGs, transforming the WSIS-SDG Matrix into an evidence-based policy guide for all WSIS Stakeholders. The WSIS Forum builds upon the WSIS-SDG Matrix, linking its agenda and outcomes to the SDGs ([www.wsis.org/forum](http://www.wsis.org/forum)), thereby providing a multistakeholder contribution to the UN High Level Political Forum.

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

In line with the Resolution 1332 (Modified 2016), and taking into account the overall mandate of the ITU and its role as the specialized United Nations agency for ICTs, the Roadmap for ITU actions related to the SDGs has been elaborated as a living document giving course to ITU actions related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Following the roadmap, and the Membership guidance at the 29th and 30th meetings of CWG-WSIS, since Council-16, a series of actions have been implemented.

Terms of reference of the WSIS Task Force were updated. The WSIS Task Force, under the direction of CoCo, facilitates coordination of the ITU secretariat’s policies, strategies, and activities in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, WSIS, the Connect 2020 Agenda, and the fulfilment of Council Resolution 1332, within established policies and procedures, and within the allocated resources in the financial plan and biennial budget.

A circular letter from the Secretary-General was sent out on 1 December 2015, on *ICTs for advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* ([CL-15/46](http://www.itu.int/md/S15-SG-CIR-0046/en)). A dedicated [website](http://www.itu.int/en/sustainable-world/Pages/default.aspx) containing [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4764_NwlLAw)s, [blogs](https://itu4u.wordpress.com/category/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/), [social media](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23ICT4SDG&src=typd) outreach, and [case studies](http://www.itu.int/en/sustainable-world/Pages/goal1.aspx) highlighting the role of ICTs for the SDGs is available at <http://www.itu.int/ict4sdg>.

The Sector Advisory Groups have continued discussions on the contribution of the ITU Sectors to the SDGs, including the mapping of the sectoral activities to the SDGs. In Council-16, a first draft mapping the SDGs to the work programme of ITU-T, ITU-D, and ITU-R was presented to the respective Sector Advisory Groups.

As part of the implementation of the ITU Strategic and Operational Plans, ITU continued to engage with all stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academia, while undertaking initiatives to support the implementation of the SDGs.

The ITU secretariat established the [SDG Mapping Tool](https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/SDG/#/home/home-page) with the aim of taking stock of all ITU initiatives and activities related to the SDGs, taking into consideration existing frameworks provided by the WSIS Action Lines for the overall ICT ecosystem and the Connect 2020 Agenda.

ITU remained engaged in the discussions on the SDGs within the various UN system coordination mechanisms, particular the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) and its subsidiary bodies, and dedicated 2030 Agenda task teams, such as the Interagency Task Team on Science, Technology and Innovation (part of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism entrusted with the organization of the annual STI Forum and the elaboration of the Online Platform), and the Interagency Task Team on Financing for Development.

As part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, ITU provided input to the various UN Secretary-General reports (in particular the Annual SDG progress report, the Global Sustainable Development report, and the Sustainable development mainstreaming report, among other thematic reports). ITU also participated in the 2016 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) for Sustainable Development and other related ECOSOC meetings, forums, and events, including through the ITU Council contribution to the HLPF requested by the President of ECOSOC and the holding of thematic side events in collaboration with partners and other stakeholders.

For the 2017 HLPF, and at the invitation of the President of ECOSOC extended to the ITU Council, a contribution is being prepared to this year’s edition under the guidance of the membership. The draft and final versions will be available at [www.itu.int/wg-wsis](http://www.itu.int/wg-wsis). ITU will also continue to engage in the various UN system follow-up mechanisms and is planning to collaborate in side event opportunities with partners.

ITU provided ICT data and statistics to monitor and track the ICT indicators related to the SDGs.

In addition, the SDG focused communication campaign was launched. An online platform for ITU membership to showcase their contributions to the SDGs was developed. Evidence-based data on the contribution of ITU activities to the SDGs were developed. Series of case studies and storytelling campaigns showing the importance of ICT4SDG were elaborated. An extensive social media promotion and engagement campaign was launched reaching millions of the stakeholders at the global level.

ITU is working closely with UNIDO on a number of SDG 9 events/presentations which will be integrated within the WSIS Forum. Under the working title SDG9@WSIS actions will focus on the catalytic effect of ICTs within SDG 9 in enabling the achievement of all other goals.

ITU’s #ICT4SDG campaign, rooted in SDG 9 but highlighting the catalytic role of ICTs in achieving all the SDGs, is a membership and partner-oriented communications campaign where partnerships with all relevant stakeholders will encourage global decision-makers and key influencers to ensure that ICTs are central to the global development agenda. ITU membership was informed via circular letter ([CL-16/62](https://www.itu.int/md/S16-SG-CIR-0062/en)). Content is regularly being added to an ICT4SDG landing site [www.itu.int/ict4sdg](http://www.itu.int/ict4sdg).

**4 Conclusions**

ITU, being the UN Agency for the ICTs, plays an important role in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As described in this document, and following the guidance of the ITU Membership, further efforts are being made by the Sectors and the General Secretariat to leverage the enabling role of ICTs for SDGs.

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