WSIS+10
United Nations General Assembly
High-Level Meeting

General Assembly's overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes

Official Form for Written Submissions

A. Your Information

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B. Formal Input

Outline

1. Formal Responses to the Guiding Questions Provided by Secretariat

The concept of the digital divide has been with us since the ITU's Maitland Commission first published "The Missing Link" report in January 1985. Setting as a goal – Everyone on the planet would be within walking distance to a telephone by the year 2000 – was seen as quite an ambitious goal at the time. At the time of Maitland – there were 600 million telephones in the world, three-quarters are concentrated in nine countries – there was no internet and mobile phones only came out on the market 2 in 1983.

[1] When specifying your stakeholder type, please indicate one of the following: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia, and Technical Sector.

Since then we have come a long way. In 1998, at the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis, the ITU Membership proposed to hold the World Summit on the Information Society, to achieve a common vision, desire and commitment to build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information. The UN General Assembly Resolution 56/183 (21 December 2001) endorsed the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in two phases. The first phase took place in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase took place in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005. In 2003, the number of participants was 11,000 representing 175 countries and in 2005 the number of participants was more than 19,000 representing 174 countries. Since then, a cluster of WSIS-related events was held on an annual basis. In 2009, the cluster of WSIS-related events was rebranded as WSIS Forum, and became unique global multistakeholder platform to coordinate implementation of WSIS outcomes.

Since the 1st phase of the WSIS, mobile cellular subscriptions have quintupled. Internet usage has more than quadrupled, but gaps remain and new still emerge. Approximately 1/3 of the world's population does not have access to a mobile phone and 57% do not have access to the internet. It's clear that there is no single digital divide, but several. We are seeing broad and persistent gaps in access to infrastructure, a gender digital divide, speed of access, quality of access, ability to afford Internet access, a skills gap, and a gap in the availability of multilingual and – relevant – content online.
Several new trends have emerged since the WSIS including cloud computing, broadband, digital economy, digital inclusion, big data, social media, Internet of Things, network neutrality, emergency communications, smart grids and many others.

Looking to the gaps there are a number of challenges to be addressed, perhaps the greatest challenge before us is to ensure the integration of WSIS and the Sustainable Development Goals, while financing remains a continued challenge. Several challenges were identified through a multistakeholder consensus by the ITU Coordinated WSIS+10 High Level Event, extended version of WSIS Forum, among the others the following: Protection and reinforcement of all human rights, the need for more youth engagement, continued extension of access for people for disabilities, protecting privacy, building confidence and security, maintaining peace in cyberspace, strengthening trust framework, capacity-building, e-waste and environmental sustainability, enabling environments as mentioned this morning, and monitoring and measurement at the national level of the WSIS targets.
The following presents formal responses to the guiding questions provided by the UNGA Overall Review secretariat based on the ITU Coordinated WSIS+10 High Level Event Outcome Documents and other Relevant Documents.

1. **To what extent has progress been made on the vision of the people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society in the ten years since the WSIS?**

WSIS+10 High-Level Event, coordinated by ITU, endorsed multistakeholder consensus based *WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes,* providing assessment of the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines (Chapter B), as follows:

The commitment and adoption of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Geneva Plan of Action of 2003 and the Tunis Agenda and Commitment of 2005 led to significant progress but also raised challenges. The most notable achievement of the current implementation of the WSIS Action lines is the participation and rising interest of all stakeholders, at the national, regional, and international levels, in jointly building and shaping the inclusive information society and raising awareness and overcoming the challenges that this process entails. This section highlights the progress achieved towards the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines:

We note with satisfaction

1. That the WSIS Action Lines have helped in building a common understanding of the desirability to realize a truly global interconnected and inclusive Information Society. And that the implementation of those Action Lines has helped in drawing the attention to the crucial role the ICTs can play in many areas including reducing poverty and promoting literacy.
2. That the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action has led to the development of international, regional and national strategies and plans for the development of inclusive Information Society.
3. That there is greater awareness of the importance of promoting digital inclusion for youth, age-related disabilities, women, the vulnerable and marginalized, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities and special needs, while promoting the wealth and sustaining the diversity of the world's languages
4. That the enabling environment -the policies, content and capacities required to make good use of technologies for development- is understood today as being as important as infrastructure investments.

We acknowledge the significant

5. Efforts made towards the realization of a global ICT based economy through adopting and implementing appropriate national ICT policies with a view to integrating the efforts of all stakeholders. 14 World Summit on the Information Society — WSIS+10
6. Contribution of all UN Agencies in charge of facilitating Action Lines, and all stakeholders, actively contributing to the WSIS implementation. We particularly emphasize
7. The importance of the work carried out by the "Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development" on the development of a set of core ICT indicators that has been adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, as well as, acknowledges the ICT Development Index (IDI).

We recognize that

8. Many countries have made considerable progress in implementing the Action lines in the form of tangible policies, projects and services across the different sectors of the society.
9. ICT infrastructure development has been boosted by several enablers such as new policies and technologies including broadband and mobile solutions, Universal Service Funds, planning and background data, the development of national and regional internet exchange points and international standards.

10. The access to information and knowledge has widened and deepened in the past 10 years due to technological advancement in connectivity, expanded mobile penetration and broadband access and the emergence of new platforms and applications, such as social media and cloud computing.
11. Improved access to ICT in education over the past 10 years enhanced development of all groups and supported the development of skilled labor force, providing active participation in the society and availing new opportunities for social mobility.
12. The efforts exerted to increase affordable access to ICTs in the developing countries and in particular LDCs.
13. There has been increasing awareness by policy makers of the importance of public access to ICTs and the different tools to combat the digital and knowledge divide.
14. There has been awareness of the need for greater collaboration among governments and all relevant stakeholders to address different aspects of endeavoring to ensure confidence, security, privacy and personal data protection, safety and trust in the use of ICTs. International and regional cooperation and capacity building programs have been recognized as key elements in achieving this.
15. The WSIS Plan of Action has contributed to a deepened understanding for the significance of ICT for development among policy and decision makers, including of the ethical dimensions of the Information Society.
16. ICTs play an important role in socio-economic development through job creation and entrepreneurship.
17. The WSIS Plan of Action has contributed to supporting research in e-Science providing better understanding of emerging trends, its impact and future direction.
18. Cultural diversity has been recognized as an integral part of the information society and sustainable development.
19. Innovative financial mechanisms, public private partnership, as well as adequate and sustainable investments contributed to the progress towards building inclusive Information Society.
20. The annual WSIS Forum has become an efficient global multistakeholder platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes. The decennial countries and Action Line Facilitators reports initiated by the WSIS Forum served as a basis for the WSIS+10 High-level Event.
21. WSIS Stocktaking Process, including WSIS Project Prizes, has become, an efficient and effective platform for collection of ICT-related projects for WSIS Action Lines providing useful contribution to the sharing best practices at the global level.

In addition, *the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015* – a multistakeholder consensus based outcome document of the WSIS+10 High Level Event (Geneva, 2014) elaborated through a WSIS+10 Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (WSIS+10 MPP) and endorsed by the WSIS+10 High Level Event on 11 June 2014 as well as ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) – in its Preamble an additional of implementation of the WSIS outcomes is provided, as follows:

In 2003 and 2005, at the two phases of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS), the international community agreed on a set of commitments that recognize information and communication technologies (ICTs) as enablers for development. World leaders representing Governments, private sector, civil society and the international organizations translated the common vision and guiding principles into concrete Action Lines in the Geneva Plan of Action; to advance the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

The Action Lines identify and seek to capture the potential of ICTs in enhancing access, especially of vulnerable populations, to information and knowledge, education, health care and other public services; provision of ICT Infrastructure; creating enabling environments; building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, information and knowledge creation, sharing, acquisition and preservation purposes. The role of ICTs for protecting the environment, for mitigating natural disaster risks, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable food production and for women's empowerment are also key to the implementation of WSIS outcomes.

While considerable achievements have been made since the first phase of WSIS in 2003, during which the Geneva Plan of Action was adopted, however numerous challenges remain. Moreover, the ICT landscape and their uses have continued to evolve and new challenges and opportunities have emerged.

Several new trends have emerged in the inclusive Information Society such as broadband, social networks, mobility, digital inclusion, massive open online courses (MOOCs) and e-participation, amongst others[2]. Many of these trends bring rapid innovation, diffusion and uptake of mobile technologies, as well as, improved access to ICTs, which has led to the great expansion of the gamut of opportunities that ICTs offer to promote inclusive and sustainable development. As demonstrated by the progress made in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration on the strategic use of ICTs to address a wide range of issues during the past decade has produced a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise – resources which constitute a valuable foundation for future cooperation.

Within the last 10 years, several efforts have been made towards international and regional cooperation in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action. The WSIS Forum, co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line Facilitators/Co-Facilitators (ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, UNCTAD UNDESA, FAO, UNEP, WHO, ILO, WMO, UN, ITC, UPU and Regional Commission), has proven to be an efficient mechanism for coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices and continues to provide assistance in developing multistakeholder and public/private partnerships to advance development goals. Regional commissions play a vital role in facilitating regional inputs, feeding outcomes of regional meetings, strategies and evaluation towards the WSIS Forum.

The evolution of the information society over the past 10 years is contributing towards, inter alia, the development of knowledge societies around the world that are based on principles of freedom of expression, quality education for all, universal and nondiscriminatory access to information and knowledge, and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity and cultural heritage. When mentioning the information society, we also refer to the above mentioned evolution and to the vision of inclusive knowledge societies.

Exchange and sharing of information on the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, reporting on good practices, success stories and examples of the ICT projects on regular basis through the WSIS Stocktaking

[2] Emerging trends in 11 WSIS Action Lines both in terms of Policy and Technology are produced as an Outcome of WSIS Forum in a multistakeholder environment on an annual basis.

Database, maintained by the ITU, became an important process for building capacities necessary to accelerate implementation of WSIS activities as well as crucial platform to assist facilitation work of the WSIS Action Lines. As an integral part of this process the annual contest of the WSIS Project Prize, as well as other best practice initiatives encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for sharing these best practices at the global level, and, recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that contributes towards achieving the goals of the Geneva Plan of Action.

Yet the WSIS aims of bridging the digital, technology and knowledge divides and of creating a people-centric, inclusive, open and development-oriented information society where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge still remains vastly relevant.

A number of issues and challenges that existed and number of those that have emerged during the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society are still valid. Hence, UN Agencies together with all relevant stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, are to collaborate to address those challenges.

Since 2004, the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development has helped improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, enhanced the statistical capacity of Governments and coordinated the work of UN and other relevant International Agencies in the collection of ICT data.

ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (MDG review process) and the WSIS implementation process, all stakeholders have indicated the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact.

Moreover, under the coordination by ITU, the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development elaborated a comprehensive report on *Final WSIS Targets Review: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward.*

The Report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements made towards the WSIS Targets that governments agreed upon at the World Summit on the Information Society, and:

- Reviews progress made on each one of the WSIS Targets, which range from connecting villages, schools and health centres to developing content and providing people with ICT access
- Draws attention to the availability (and lack) of data to track progress today, and over time
- Makes recommendations on policies that are most relevant in impacting the WSIS Targets
- Reviews the relevance of targets and indicators to track the information society
- Highlights lessons learnt and makes recommendations on a possible future (post-2015) ICT measurement framework
- Links a possible post-2015 ICT monitoring framework to the post-2015 Development Agenda

Concerning the final quantitative assessment review of the WSIS targets carried out in this report, the assessment shows that while extensive growth in ICT networks, services, applications and content has

driven the global information society in the decade following the WSIS Summits, ICT access and use is far from equally distributed. Large parts of the world's population have limited access to ICTs (in particular the Internet) and cannot fully benefit from their potential. While the last decade has seen enormous growth in mobile-cellular penetration (with now nearly one mobile-cellular phone subscription for every person in the world), over 4 billion people in the world (60 per cent of the world's population) are still not using the Internet.

The assessment in this report has also highlighted the lack of data to fully assess progress. It should be noted that the results are possibly distorted by uneven data contributions in favour of more connected countries. In particular, for most indicators, data in respect of least developed countries were lacking.
Concerning specific targets:

- Target 1 (Connect all villages with ICTs and establish community access points): Significant but unequal progress has been observed for the four indicators defined for this target. Rural mobile coverage is on track and good progress has been made with access to phones in rural households, but rural areas lag in Internet access and use.
- Target 2 (Connect all secondary schools and primary schools with ICTs): Good progress has been made on this target, but great variations exist between and among developed and developing countries across all four indicators. The presence of radio and television for educational purposes is mixed due to countries' varying policies. Learner-to-computer ratios are high and Internet penetration levels are generally low in developing countries, while the opposite is true of developed countries.
- Target 3 (Connect all scientific and research centres with ICTs): Significant progress has been observed across the three indicators defined for this target: connectivity of scientific and research centres with broadband Internet, number of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) and connecting NRENs with broadband Internet. However, the target has not been achieved by all countries.
- Target 4 (Connect all public libraries, museums, post offices and national archives with ICTs): Mixed progress has been made in achieving this target, with the lack of data hampering a complete review of the 11 indicators defined for this target. Available data suggest that while an increasing proportion of public libraries and museums have broadband Internet access, the proportion with a web presence is lower. Post offices are more likely to have broadband Internet access, but a relatively small proportion offer public Internet access. National archives tend to have both broadband Internet access and a web presence. However, limited progress has been made in in terms of digitizing cultural heritage and making it available online. A notable finding of Chapter 4 is that public libraries and post offices are underutilized as public Internet access venues.
- Target 5 (Connect all health centres and hospitals with ICTs): Good progress has been observed for the first indicator defined for this target – connecting hospitals to the Internet, less progress for the second indicator – connecting health centres, and no data were available to assess the third indicator – the level of use of computers and the Internet to manage patient information.
- Target 6 (Connect all central government departments and establish websites): For most of the indicators for this target, progress is not uniform, with many countries still not utilizing the full potential of ICT in government. For most of the indicators, lack of data hampers the analysis. However, data for two of the indicators are available for most countries and show that by 2013, all countries had a central government web presence and the provision of information and transactional services on government portals is growing.

- Target 7 (Adapt all primary and secondary school curricula to meet the challenges of the information society, taking into account national circumstances): The review of this target has seen mixed progress across all indicators: the percentage of the national teaching workforce trained to teach basic computer skills is generally low, the proportion of teachers trained to teach using ICT varies substantially between and among developed and developing countries, and computer-assisted instruction and Internet-assisted instruction are common in high-income countries, but uncommon in many developing countries.
- Target 8 (Ensure that all of the world's population has access to television and radio services): While this target has not been universally achieved, good progress has been made. Household access to radio and TV is widespread globally, although the target for TV remains unmet in the least developed countries. The adoption of multichannel television has been growing rapidly and slightly more than half of all households had it by 2012.
- Target 9 (Encourage the development of content and put in place technical conditions in order to facilitate the presence and use of all world languages on the Internet): Good progress has been made towards this target, although there are major problems with lack of reliable data. The data that are available show that the proportion of Internet users whose primary language is English has fallen significantly as access to the Internet has become more widespread. There has been particularly strong growth in the number of Chinese speakers online and there is growing linguistic diversity in web content. For instance, there has been a marked decline in the proportion of Wikipedia articles in English (from 46 per cent in 2003 to 15 per cent in 2013) and a corresponding increase in the proportion of articles in languages that are not among the ten most-used international languages.
- Target 10 (Ensure that more than half the world's inhabitants have access to ICTs within their reach and make use of them): Significant progress has been made towards achieving this target across all five indicators: mobile-cellular subscriptions have grown to almost one subscription for every person; more than half of all households have a telephone; at least half of the world's inhabitants use mobile phones in countries where data are available; and almost 40 per cent of the world's population and a similar percentage of households use the Internet, although still slightly below the 50 per cent target.
- Proposed Target 11: In countries for which data are available, about half of all businesses use computers. While fixed broadband access has grown for all countries with available data, the level is still unequal. Data for business mobile phone use are not widely available, although anecdotal evidence suggests that mobile phones have become the most commonly used ICT tool among micro and small businesses in low-income countries.

In addition, recently released the *ITU ICT Facts and Figures* featuring the end-2015 estimates for key telecommunication/ICT indicators, including those on mobile-cellular subscriptions, Internet use, fixed and mobile broadband services, home ICT access, and more. These new figures not only show the rapid technological progress made to date, but also help us identify those being left behind in the fast-evolving digital economy, as well as the areas where ICT investment is needed most.

The new figures track ICT progress and show gaps in connectivity since the year 2000, when world leaders were deciding on launching the World Summit on the Information Society process, while establishing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

- Today, there are more than 7 billion mobile subscriptions worldwide, up from 738 million in 2000. Globally, 3.2 billion people are using the Internet, of which two billion live in developing countries.

- **Internet user penetration increased seven-fold since 2000**
    - Between 2000 and 2015, Internet penetration has increased almost seven-fold from 6.5 to 43 per cent of the global population.
    - The proportion of households with Internet access at home advanced from 18 per cent in 2005 to 46 per cent in 2015.
    - ITU figures also indicate that four billion people in the developing world remain offline. Off the nearly one billion people living in the Least Developing Countries (LDCs), 851 million do not use the Internet.
- **3G mobile-broadband coverage rapidly extending**
    - Mobile broadband is the most dynamic market segment, with mobile-broadband penetration globally reaching 47 per cent in 2015, a value that increased 12-fold since 2007. In 2015, 69 per cent of the global population will be covered by 3G mobile broadband, up from 45 per cent in 2011.
    - There is also a rapid extension of 3G mobile broadband into rural areas, and ITU estimates that 29 per cent of the 3.4 billion people worldwide living in rural areas will be covered by 3G mobile broadband by the end of 2015. Among the four billion people living in urban areas, 89 per cent will have access to 3G mobile broadband.
- **Fixed-broadband uptake growing at a slower pace**
    - Fixed-broadband uptake is growing at a slower pace with a seven per cent annual increase over the past three years. While the prices of fixed-broadband services dropped sharply between 2008 and 2011 in developing countries, they have been stagnating since then and even increased slightly in LDCs.
- **Broadband now affordable in many countries**
    - The figures indicate that broadband is now affordable in 111 countries, with the cost of a basic (fixed or mobile) broadband plan corresponding to less than five per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, thus meeting the target set by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. The global average cost of a basic fixed-broadband plan, as measured in PPP$ (or purchasing power parity $), is 1.7 times higher than the average cost of a comparable mobile-broadband plan.

2. What are the challenges to the implementation of WSIS outcomes?

The WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes is a multistakeholder consensus based outcome document of the WSIS+10 High Level Event (Geneva, 2014) elaborated through a WSIS+10 Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (WSIS+10 MPP) and endorsed by the WSIS+10 High Level Event on 11 June 2014 as well as the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014).

The document acknowledges that the WSIS Action Lines, in a multistakeholder approach, have helped and continue to help in building awareness of the importance of people centric inclusive and development oriented Information Society. It also notes that the WSIS Action Lines have been contributing in enabling and supporting a sound framework and approach for realizing the goal of an inclusive Information Society. It recognizes the need for ensuring proper integration of the WSIS and the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as that several challenges have been identified in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines that still remain and would need to be addressed in order to build inclusive Information Society beyond 2015.

The following lists 30 concrete challenges - reflected in the WSIS+10 Statement - that have emerged in the implementation of Action Lines and new challenges in the implementation of these Action Lines beyond 2015:

1. The need to protect and reinforce all human rights, and to recognize their importance to realize economic and social development, ensuring equal respect for and enforcement of all human rights online and offline.
2. The need to fully integrate gender equality perspectives in WSIS related strategies and facilitate their implementation as referred to in the Preamble to ensure that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes.
3. The need for more engagement of youth and enhancement of their participation in the WSIS process, to facilitate their inclusion and to strengthen their role in the Information Society development at the national, regional and international levels as referred to in the Preamble.
4. The need for continued extension of access for people with disabilities and vulnerable people to ICTs, especially in developing countries and among marginalized communities, taking into account the commitments mentioned within the preamble.
5. More than half of the world's population is still not connected to the Internet, and therefore the information and communication infrastructure, capacity and local content development needs to continue to be addressed, especially in rural and remote areas.
6. The need for further improving management and use of radio-frequency spectrum/satellite orbits for facilitating development and deployment of low-cost telecommunication networks, including satellite networks for all countries, taking into account special needs of developing and least developed countries. These are implemented through application and in accordance with ITU Radio Regulations.
7. That greater effort is still required to improve affordable access to ICTs, information and knowledge for all people, in particular in the developing countries and LDCs. There is also a need to ensure equity of access, including public access, in terms of human capacities and access to current and new ICTs, between urban and rural communities within countries and between countries around the world.
8. There is still greater need for the north-south cooperation, complemented by south-south cooperation to facilitate know-how transfer, as well as to promote the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms in order to facilitate the transition to digital economy and reduction of poverty.
9. The need to promote access for all to information and knowledge, while respecting individual privacy, and to encourage open access to publications and information, including in the research sector, and particularly in developing and least developed countries
10. The ICT role in poverty reduction needs to be enhanced through north-south and south-south cooperation in facilitating the digital economy.
11. The deployment of broadband networks is still needed to achieve the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015 and to ensure that ICT applications and services and new technologies required for people' empowerment and wellbeing become available to everyone.
12. The need to promote access for all to public information and knowledge, including open access to scientific information, particularly in developing and least developed countries and among marginalised communities in all countries.

13. ICTs have become vitally important drivers for economic growth and development, and have stimulated innovation and new business opportunities. It remains important that adequate policies and frameworks enable Small and Medium-sized Enterprises to benefit from the economic potential of ICTs,
14. A need for all education and lifelong learning opportunities for all members of society, using educational programmes, distance education and open educational resources (OER) and applications to build ICT competencies responsive to specific societal and user needs and to better enable and empower teachers, educators and learners.
15. The need to exchange views on best practices to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs while considering the importance of developing international cooperation among all relevant stakeholders as appropriate.
16. The need to strengthen the continued development of appropriate network security and privacy, and continue to support capacity building and coordination on incident response and to encourage the creation of national and regional computer incidence response teams (CIRTs) to better respond to ICT security incidents.
17. The need to increase the global, regional and national awareness of the relevance of WSIS process to national economic development-related strategies, policies and initiatives and the role it could play in their development, which underpin global development of ICTs, promote investment in ICTs and infrastructure, and foster entrepreneurship and innovation.
18. The need to enhance policies, including policy coherence across key information society sectors and reduce the skills gap, which is growing, between rich and poor within the same country, between countries, and between regions.
19. The need to continue to set realistic goals and to take decisive actions to reduce the technology gap, which is growing, between developed and developing countries.
20. The need to call upon all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;
21. The need to develop frameworks, measures and other initiatives (e.g. IXPs) to enhance better access to ICTs especially in developing countries.
22. The need to continue to promote investment and foster entrepreneurship and innovation in ICTs at the national, regional, and international levels as appropriate.
23. The need to recall the importance of creating a trustworthy, transparent and nondiscriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. To that end, we reiterate that ITU and other regional organizations to continue taking steps to ensure rational, efficient and economic use of, and equitable access to, the radiofrequency spectrum by all countries, based on relevant international agreements.
24. The need for a coherent linkage between the WSIS process at the international level and initiatives at the national and regional levels including bottom up initiatives, as appropriate.
25. The need to ensure environmental sustainability, including by avoiding any harmful impacts that may result from the disposal of massive e-waste.
26. The need to respect human diversity in all its forms, in particular, cultural and linguistic diversity as well as diversity of tradition, religious beliefs and convictions to develop measures and policies to

safe guard endangered languages and preserve cultural and linguistic heritage, including by supporting multilingualism in the use of ICTs.

27. The need for people to have media and information literacy skills that are indispensable in order to fully participate in an inclusive Information Society.
28. The need to increase the awareness of all stakeholders of the ethical dimension in the use of ICTs and encourage international and interdisciplinary reflection and dialogue on the ethical challenges of emerging technologies and the information society.
29. The need for sufficient investment in digital inclusion measures, taking into account innovative approaches to bring the benefits of ICT to all, including access to software and hardware in a non-discriminatory manner.
30. The need to promote further dialogue on the protection of privacy in light of technological developments.

3. What should be the priorities in seeking to achieve WSIS outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends?

The following provides an extract from the *Chapter B (Priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of WSIS Beyond 2015)* of the *WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015,* a multistakeholder consensus based outcome document of the WSIS+10 High Level Event (Geneva, 2014) elaborated through a WSIS+10 Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (WSIS+10 MPP) and endorsed by the WSIS+10 High Level Event on 11 June 2014 as well as ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014).

A number of priority areas have been identified by WSIS Stakeholders that should be considered in the implementation of WSIS+10 beyond 2015 due to their importance for sustainable development and for strengthening the move towards building inclusive Information Society. These priorities come in light of the changes that emerge from the ICT sector itself, in addition to the demands of the other sectors of the economy and the society which urges its enhancement. They are also due to technologies becoming more widely accessible, and they happen with the increasingly diverse and innovative uses for social, cultural, educational and economic purposes.

With the rapid development of ICTs over the past ten years and the mainstreaming of ICTs into everyday life, the link between ICTs and human development is increasingly important. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the development of the inclusive information society in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda.

We, the WSIS Stakeholders have identified the topics below as priority areas to be addressed in the implementation of Geneva Plan of Action Beyond 2015:

1. The need to protect and reinforce all human rights, and to recognize their importance to realize economic and social development, ensuring equal respect for and enforcement of all human rights online and offline.
2. Encouraging and facilitating people-centered and inclusive governance models and mechanisms.

3. Strengthening open, democratic, transparent and inclusive WSIS multistakeholder approach, enabling all stakeholders to participate according to their respective roles and responsibilities, in the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.
4. Ensuring a clear and direct link and an explicit connection between the key aim of the WSIS, that of harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies to promote and realize development goals, and the post 2015 development agenda, so as to contribute to the realisation of the latter.
5. Expanding access to and use of ICTs to all, including broadband and mobile services, particularly to vulnerable and marginalised people who must have a variety of opportunities to strengthen their social position through ICTs and eservices, through continued and increasing practical measures of inclusion, while at the same time taking steps to enhance trust in the use of ICTs.
6. Promoting the development and availability of simplified devices, including textfree interfaces and applications aimed at digital inclusion.
7. Considering the evolution of existing universal service programmes into programmes for digital inclusion that support broadband services for all people as well as those in rural and remote areas where not only market forces exist but public investment may be necessary.
8. Mainstreaming gender issues across all WSIS action lines and from strategies and planning through to implementation, to ensure action lines take account of continuing gender issues, redress discrimination and contribute to ending violence and harassment.
9. Ensuring universal access to information and knowledge and the capacity to use ICTs for all people, including by offering services and ICTs that are inclusive of, accessible and affordable for persons with disabilities, e.g. by providing assistive technologies and through the effective implementation of appropriate international interoperable technical standards, disability-inclusive development frameworks and enabling policy environments, incorporating accessibility issues in public procurement policies and in international regulatory fora.
10. Bridging the digital divide by promoting inclusiveness and by facilitating countries' economic growth. Through the development and advancement of ICTs including broadband networks as well as the provision of affordable access and public access points.
11. Assisting developing countries to expand broadband infrastructure and take measures (such as Internet Exchange Points) to improve the quality, increase the connectivity and resilience of networks, foster competition and reduce the costs of local/national, regional and international, and interconnections, including enabling more local content and local e-Services to be provided in those countries.
12. Encouraging governments and intergovernmental organizations as well as private institutions and organisations to pursue policies and programs that advocate for and promote media and information literacy (MIL) and lifelong learning for all, so as to help users develop their abilities to evaluate and interact with online information resources.
13. Fostering ICT capacity building and ensuring that professional expertise keeps pace with advancing technology by building mechanisms for ICT skills development, to support economic development, help generate jobs and allow more people to benefit from the information society.
14. Harnessing ICTs with scientific and educational initiatives and activities, including exploring mechanisms for accreditation of on-line learning.

15. Working towards a more culturally and linguistically diverse world, with multilingualization of ICTs, including Internet, email, search engines and native capability for international domain names (IDN) and Unicode and by encouraging relevant and useful multilingual and local digital content, so that all members of the community are able to understand and participate in online life and contribute to online content.
16. Ensuring the preservation of digital heritage in the information society by putting into place cohesive, conceptual and practical digital strategies, supported, to the extent practicable, at international level, for the preservation of and access to recorded information in the digital environment in all its forms while respecting individual privacy.
17. Prioritizing the sharing of existing expertise and best-practice solutions between all stakeholders and creating replicable and sustainable ICT projects.
18. Reiterating our commitment to deepening and strengthening the actions taken in implementing the WSIS Action Lines, with an evaluation of the lessons learned over the past ten years so that others may benefit from the experience and to address the challenges we face today.
19. Promoting a Digital Economy, ensuring equal opportunities for all in creating and providing online services and promoting e-commerce and international free trade while addressing the tax challenges of the digital economy.
20. Addressing e-environment issues and challenges, developing Green IT and using ICTs to mitigate climate change.
21. Recognizing the importance of maintaining open ICT standards development processes for innovation in the ICT sector as key enablers for an inclusive information society.
22. Supporting providers of public access in the local communities such as libraries to help people access information resources they need and develop information literacy skills to improve their lives.
23. Urging governments and intergovernmental organisations with involvement of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities to continue to support and facilitate enabling regulatory, legal and investment environments for ICT for Development.
24. Maximising opportunities to leverage the ICTs, and transformative technology more generally, as enablers for social and economic development by creating appropriate national strategies and policies for the advancement of WSIS /ICT for development goals and by encouraging cooperation among all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and global levels to further the implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action.
25. Supporting and encouraging stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities, to work together for the continued technical evolution of the ICTs to address known weaknesses and to increase capability, while maintaining full interoperability and stability.
26. Furthering the multistakeholder dialogue on Network neutrality, as appropriate.
27. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs, notably on topics such as personal data protection, privacy, security and robustness of networks.
28. Enhancing national and regional capacity to address cybersecurity challenges by encouraging a culture of responsibility and joint efforts of all involved parties according to their roles to address security risks. In this respect, further strengthening cooperation between all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels is required.

29. Promoting a culture of online security and safety, empowering users, and encouraging national, regional and international cybersecurity strategies to protect users, including children.
30. Reaffirming our commitment in regard to Ethical Dimensions of the use of ICTs in regard to para 25 of Geneva Plan of action and as described in para 43 of the Tunis Agenda.
31. Promoting professional standards and continued research on the ethical dimensions on the uses of ICTs.
32. Providing assistance for those countries that would like to adopt legal frameworks to promote their domestic ICT markets in the future, and providing other forms of assistance.
33. Encouraging the full deployment of IPv6 to ensure the long-term sustainability of the addressing space, including in light of future developments in the Internet of Things.
34. Developing agreed goals and time-based measurable targets data and indicators along with enhanced monitoring and reporting.
35. Encourage the ongoing assessment of progress towards the information society, as envisaged in the WSIS Outcomes, including through efforts such as the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development which has been essential for evaluating the implementation of WSIS Action Lines.
36. In this respect, it is necessary to continue to develop appropriate ways and means to make such measurements.

4. What are general expectations from the WSIS+10 High Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly?

The WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, a multistakeholder consensus based outcome document of the WSIS+10 High Level Event (Geneva, 2014), was elaborated through a WSIS+10 Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform (WSIS+10 MPP) and endorsed by the WSIS+10 High Level Event on 11 June 2014 as well as the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014). The last chapter of this document entitled *Action Lines beyond 2015: Looking to the Future,* provides a multistakeholder consensus based vision for implementation component of WSIS. The UNGA High Level Meeting is given for consideration this input, when developing final outcome of the overall review.

The following is an extract from the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, Chapter C.III: *Action Lines beyond 2015: Looking to the Future.*

We reaffirm that effective cooperation among governments, private sector, civil society and the United Nations and other international organizations, according to their different roles and responsibilities and leveraging on their expertise, is essential, taking into account the multifaceted nature of building the Information Society.

We emphasize great importance of continuation of the multistakeholder implementation at the international level, following the themes and action lines in the Geneva Plan of Action, and moderated/facilitated by UN agencies. The coordination of multistakeholder implementation activities would help to avoid duplication of activities. This should include, inter alia, information exchange, creation of knowledge, sharing of best practices, and assistance in developing multi-stakeholder and public-private partnerships.

We reaffirm importance of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) created by the UN-Chief Executives Board (CEB) upon guidance by Tunis Agenda (Para 103), as an efficient and effective inter-agency mechanism with the main objective to coordinate substantive and policy issues facing the United Nations' implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

We welcome holding of the annual WSIS Forum, which has become a key forum for multistakeholder debate on pertinent issues related to the Geneva Plan of Action and note that the Forum's inclusiveness, openness, and thematic focus have strengthened responsiveness to stakeholders and contributed to increased physical and remote participation.

We encourage all stakeholders to contribute to and closely collaborate with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as an international, multi-stakeholder initiative to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries.

We emphasize/recognize that the commitments to advance gender equality perspectives and undertake the necessary actions throughout the WSIS outcomes, as called for in Para 3 of Preamble under this document, should also be implemented, reviewed and monitored, consistent with other Action Lines, by UN Women in cooperation with other Action Line Facilitators.

We encourage all WSIS stakeholders to continue to contribute information on their activities to the public WSIS stocktaking database maintained by ITU. In this regard, we invite all countries to gather information at the national level with the involvement of all stakeholders, to contribute to the stocktaking.

We also welcome continuation of the WSIS Project Prizes initiative that has been launched by ITU with involvement of all Action line facilitators as a competition that recognizes excellence in the implementation of projects and initiatives which further the WSIS goals of improving connectivity to ICTs), particularly within underserved communities, and provide a high-profile, international platform for recognizing and showcasing success stories and models that could be easily replicated. In this regard, the WSIS Stocktaking Database is of utmost importance in sharing best practices amongst WSIS Stakeholders.

We emphasize on the importance of 17 May as World Information Society Day to help to raise awareness, on an annual basis, of the importance of this global facility, on the issues dealt with in the WSIS especially the possibilities that the use of ICTs can bring for societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

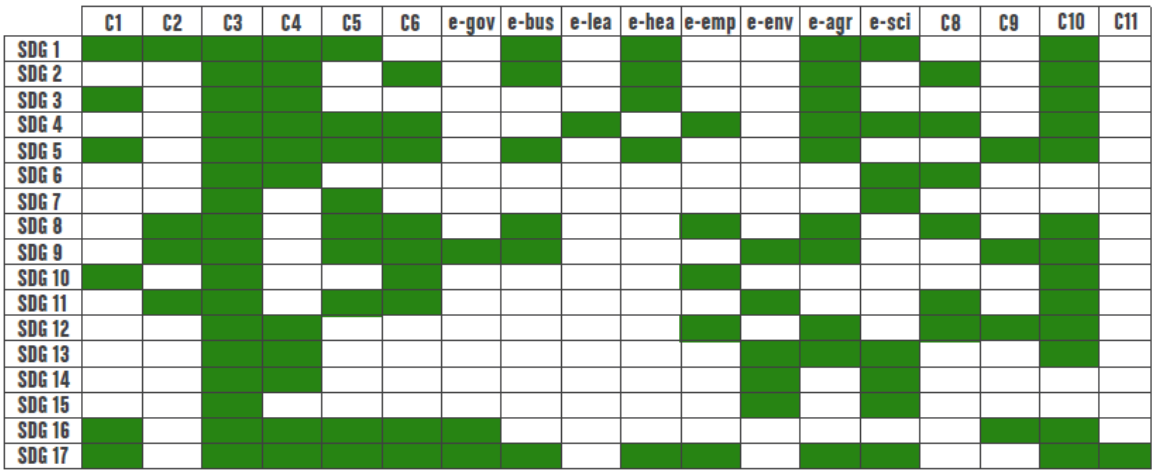
Moreover, the Resolution 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) has encouraged the member states to support, through relevant United Nations processes, the creation of synergies and institutional linkages between WSIS and the post-2015 Development Agenda, so as to continue strengthening the impact of ICT for sustainable development.

Moreover the outcome documents of the WSIS+10 High Level Event, in particular WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015 state the following: ICTs will play a critical role in achieving the sustainable development goals. Taking into account the ongoing dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

(MDG review process) and the WSIS implementation process, all stakeholders have indicated the necessity of increased interaction between both processes in order to ensure that efforts across the UN System are coherent and coordinated to achieve maximum and sustainable impact.

In this context, on the occasion of the WSIS Forum 2015, the WSIS Action Line Facilitators, under their respective mandates, launched the *WSIS-SDG Matrix: Linking WSIS Action Lines with Sustainable Development Goals* as a tool to map how information and communications technologies (ICTs) may contribute to the implementation of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The mapping exercise describes the interfaces between the WSIS Action Lines adopted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) with the proposed SDGs (See table below; more details are available at http://www.wsis.org/sdg).

Taking into account that the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the Sustainable



Development Goals, will be adopted in September 2015, the WSIS+10 High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen the link between both processes. As stated in the WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015, with the rapid development of ICTs over the past ten years and the mainstreaming of ICTs into everyday life, the link between ICTs and human development is increasingly important. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the development of the inclusive information society in the broader context of the post-2015 development agenda.

In addition in the Final WSIS Targets Review, the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development provided a comprehensive review of the WSIS targets and indicators. It concluded that revisions of the WSIS Targets are necessary, what may be considered by the WSIS+10 High Level Meeting: data for some targets are not available, others are less relevant, and there is a need to move from ICT access to use to monitoring the quality and equality of access. In addition, capturing the impact of ICTs is becoming more important than just capturing the rapid development of ICTs. The impact includes the role of ICTs as a development enabler to help achieve other development goals, including MDGs, and future goals of the post-2015 agenda. A number of recommendations were made for future ICT target setting:

- high-level endorsement and awareness building among policy-makers
- open consultation processes to identify targets

- targets should be time-bound, concrete and measurable to be able to track progress
- they should be ambitious but realistic and achievable, based on the assessment of historical and current trends of progress
- indicators should be clear and easy to understand for policy-makers and other stakeholders, and relevant to policy intervention
- where possible, they should be based on internationally-agreed statistical standards.

5. What shape should the outcome document take?

In line with the UNGA Resolution 69/302 on the modalities of the UNGA Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS the UNGA High Level Meeting aims at adopting intergovernmentally agreed outcome document.

2. Formal Submission of Relevant ITU Documents

Following the guidance of the ITU Membership, Resolution 140 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014) and the ITU Council-15 Resolution 1334 (2015), ITU has the pleasure of submitting to the process the following documents:

- **WSIS+10 High Level Event Outcome Documents**, including
  - **WSIS+10 Statement on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes**
  - **WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS beyond 2015**

  The outcome documents have been elaborated through the WSIS+10 Multistakeholder Preparatory Platform, during 11 month long preparatory process. They were endorsed by the WSIS+10 High Level Event on 11 June 2014 in Geneva as well as ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Busan, 2014). They are available in six UN languages at http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/HLE.html .
- **ITU's Ten Year Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes**
  This document is a comprehensive report on the ITU activities in context of WSIS carried out by the Union (its three sectors (Standardization, Radiocommunication and the Development) and the General Secretariat) from 2005 – 2014. It is available in English at http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx

Moreover, ITU has the pleasure of submitting additional documents relevant to the discussions within the framework of the overall review, while drawing attention to their main recommendations:

- **Final WSIS Targets Review: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward (2014)**
  This report was elaborated by Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, under the coordination of ITU. It provides a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements made towards the WSIS Targets that governments agreed upon at the World Summit on the Information Society. It is available in English at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/wsistargets2014.aspx
  The year 2010 marked the midpoint between the 2005 Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and 2015, the deadline for achieving the ten targets that governments agreed upon at the WSIS. In this context, as a mid-term review, **the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report (WTDR 2010)** on **Monitoring the WSIS Targets** provided policy makers with a comprehensive assessment of what has been achieved so far, and what remains to be done. Repot is available at http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/wtdr_10/ .
- **Measuring the Information Society Report 2014**
  This ITU report features key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, including the ICT Development Index (IDI). The IDI captures the level of ICT developments in 166 economies worldwide and compares progress made during the last year. Report is available in English and its executive summary in six UN languages: at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/publications/mis2014.aspx .
- **ICT Facts and Figures 2015**
  The ITU ICT Facts and Figures features the end-2015 estimates for key telecommunication/ICT indicators, including those on mobile-cellular subscriptions, Internet use, fixed and mobile broadband services, home ICT access, and more. 2015 is the deadline for achievements of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which global leaders agreed upon in the year 2000, and the new data

shows ICT progress and highlights remaining gaps. This document is available at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx

- **WSIS-SDG Matrix: Linking WSIS Action Lines with Sustainable Development Goals** This document has been elaborated by all WSIS Action Line Facilitators, under coordination of ITU. It is available in English at http://www.wsis.org/sdg . This document is supported by additional material on **Advancing Sustainable Development Through Information and Communication Technologies: WSIS Action Lines Enabling SDGs.** It is available in English at http://www.wsis.org/sdg

The following lists additional reports elaborated by ITU that may serve as an important reference point for the WSIS Overall Review:

- WSIS Forum Outcome Documents 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- WSIS Forum High Level Policy Statements 2014, 2015
- WSIS+10 Visioning Challenge 2013
- Identifying Emerging Trends and a Vision Beyond 2015: 2012, 2013
- WSIS Stocktaking Reports: 2005, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- WSIS Stocktaking: Success Stories: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- 10-Year Country, WSIS Action Line Facilitator's and Other WSIS Stakeholders' Reports on the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes (more than 30 reports): 2014
- Measuring Information Society Reports: 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
- Connect the World: Outcomes of Series of Summits (AFR/2006, CIS/2009, AMS/2012, ARB/2012, APS/2013)
- Trends in Telecommunication Reform Series, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004-2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010/2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Global Symposium for Regulators Best Practice Guidance: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2009, 2013
- Connect 2020 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development (2014/2015)
- Broadband Commission Reports and State of Broadband 2012, 2013, 2014
- Technology Watch Reports: 2008-2014 (30 Reports)
- Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report 2014
- Making Mobile Phones and Services Accessible 2012
- Making Television Accessible 2011

3. Flagship ITU Activities related to WSIS implementation, following mandate by WSIS

Since 2005, ITU has been carrying out several activities in context of WSIS and following mandate by WSIS. All activities have been presented in the WSIS+10 Report: **Ten Year ITU's Contribution to the Implementation of the WSIS outcomes** that is available at http://www.itu.int/en/itu-wsis/Pages/Contribution.aspx.

The following **non-exhaustive list** presents only key flagship ITU activities related to the WSIS implementation:

- In its capacity as leading facilitator in coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action (para 109 of TAIS[3]) ITU hosts the annual **WSIS Forum**, that with time became a unique global multistakeholder platform for coordination of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.
- In its capacity of the sole facilitator of the **WSIS Action Lines C2 and C6**, where the ITU Development Sector is the focal point, and Action Line C5 where the ITU General Secretariat is the focal point, ITU has been organizing annual WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meetings taking place at the WSIS Forum. Series of contributions and reports have been produced in order to respond to the needs of the WSIS process.

  In addition, in context of the WSIS Action Lines C2, C5, C6 series of implementation activities have been carried out, with the engagement of diverse WSIS Stakeholders. The following lists only the main one:

  - **Global Symposium for Regulators** is a unique global platform gathering leaders from the global regulatory community, industry bodies and the private sector to discuss the regulation, policies and strategies related to the ICT ecosystem. With the aim of strengthening the dialogue between industry and regulatory agencies **Global Regulators-Industry Dialogue** (GRID or Global Dialogue) has become an integral part of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) and it takes place during the first two days of the GSR, which are therefore open to both regulators, policy-makers and industry representatives.
  - Building upon the successful outcomes of the **Connect the World Initiative** (Para 98 of TAIS), a series of **Transform Summits** are planned in order to set up regional agendas to leapfrog development challenges, while strengthening transformative power of ICTs and related services. ICTs have become an engine of growth, innovation, and wealth creation. They are opening up major opportunities for transformational change. Transform Africa 2013 was held in October 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda to answer two key questions: (i) Where are we today with regard to resolutions set during Connect Africa? (ii) How can Africa leverage broadband to transform communities, governments and the private sector?
  - **The Interactive Transmission Maps (Optical Fibres, Microwaves and Satellite Earth Stations)** was launched by the ITU Telecommunication Development bureau to provide to the global community publicly available a cutting-edge ICT-data mapping platform to take stock of national backbone connectivity (fibres, microwaves and satellite) as well as of other key metrics of the ICT sector. This is a collaborative effort open for partnerships to the partnerships.
  - **ITU Regional Development Forums** have been organized by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau on the annual basis with the aim of strengthening implementation of the

[3] TAIS - Tunis Agenda for the Information Society

Regional Initiatives defined by the ITU membership at the World Telecommunication Development Conference.

- ITU and UNESCO set up the **Broadband Commission for Digital Development** aims to boost the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda and believes that expanding broadband access in every country is key to accelerating progress towards these goals by the target date of 2015. It defines practical ways in which countries — at all stages of development — can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.
- Within the framework of the **Global Cybersecurity Agenda**, ITU carries our series of concrete activities, including the following National CIRT Programme, Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), Child Online Protection (COP), Enhancing Cybersecurity in LDCs, Standardizing Security, and Securing Radiocommunications. ITU is also working closely with other UN agencies/bodies under the aegis of the UN CEB, to improve internal coordination within the UN system on cybersecurity.

- In its capacity of the co-facilitator of the **WSIS Action Lines C1, C3, C4, C7, and C11 and Partner in Action Lines C8 and C9,** ITU has been closely collaborating with the WSIS Action Line Facilitators, contributing to the annual WSIS Action Line Facilitators Meetings (taking place at the WSIS Forum) as well as developing concrete activities advancing WSIS agenda in the respective fields.

  The following **non-exhaustive list** presents key flagship ITU activities related to the WSIS implementation related to the above mentioned Action Lines:

  - **ITU-WHO Mobile Health for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Initiative** has been established to focus on the use of mobile technology to improve NCDs prevention and treatment. This partnership aims to contribute to global and national efforts to save lives, minimize illness and disability, and reduce the social and economic burden due to NCDs. NCDs are largely preventable through tackling common risk factors: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol. They lead to the four common NCDs: Cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.
  - **M-Powering Development Initiative** aims extending the benefits of mobile technology to all strata of society, in order to build a truly inclusive information society, with special focus on remote rural and underserved areas. It is expected that this initiative will add to GDP growth and create employment opportunities through reliable mobile teleconnectivity, provision of affordable services and use of latest technology. Under m-Powering development, the provision of reliable mobile teleconnectivity will help open new models of development. Improved access to and use of mobile technologies may also boost positive social and economic impact in the areas of m-education, m-health, m-government, m-banking and m-sport.
  - **The ITU Academy** has been established as the lead agent for all ITU human capacity-building activities, including policy-making and implementation. It works with ITU members, stakeholders and partners to create a major force for knowledge transfer within the ICT sector. ITU Academy responds to demands for knowledge and skills in ICT training, teaching and research. The Academy offers a wide and growing range of general and specialized courses on all aspects of telecommunications in Radiocommunication, Telecommunication Standardization and Telecommunication Development. Programs are delivered face-to-face, as well as through online learning. These are designed to equip an expanding number of target groups with the specialist knowledge and tools they require, to find their way around the rapidly-evolving domain of ICTs and to use the skills and relevant technology in creating a knowledge society.

- **ITU Telecom World** in the annual basis brings together leaders from public and private sectors including heads of State and government, ministers, regulators, industry CEOs, investors, small and medium businesses (SMEs), entrepreneurs and innovators, academics and consultants to facilitate ICT innovations for economic growth and social good. This world-class forum offers interactive discussion unrivalled in the reach of its content and the quality of its speakers. National pavilions, SME and start-up pods and industry stands showcase innovative products, technologies, investment and partnership opportunities from around the world in the exhibition. Networking events and spaces are crafted to facilitate the connections that matter between public and private sector decision-makers, between individuals, ideas and industry players.

- ITU facilitates the **WSIS Stocktaking process** (Para 120 of TAIS), that aims at collection of the WSIS related activities carried out by all WSIS stakeholders and reported through publicly available online Stocktaking database and platform. Series of annual reports highlight flagship activities pointing to the recent trends in the implementation. In addition the annual international contest entitled WSIS Project Prizes serves as a mechanism for identification of good practices in 18 categories, in line with the WSIS Action Lines.

- In line with Para 114 of TAIS, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau leads the **Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development**, being an international, multi-stakeholder initiative that was launched in 2004 to improve the availability and quality of ICT data and indicators, particularly in developing countries. The Partnership has guided policy makers in producing ICT statistics that are crucial to informed decision-making, including through the identification of a core list of ICT indicators and methodologies to collect these indicators. The Partnership helps developing countries collect ICT statistics, particularly through capacity-building and hands-on training for national statistical offices, and collects and disseminates information society statistics. Its membership has grown from originally 11, to today 14 regional and international organisations. The Partnership work is coordinated by a Steering Committee, which is elected every 3 years. The current Steering Committee is made up of ITU, UNCTAD, and UIS.

- In line with Paras 113-119 of TAIS and para 28 of Geneva Plan, on the annual basis, since 2009, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau has been publishing the **Measuring the Information Society Report** that features key ICT data and benchmarking tools to measure the information society, including the ICT Development Index (IDI). The IDI captures the level of ICT developments in 166 economies worldwide and compares progress made during the last year. The latest Measuring the Information Society Report, 2014 highlights the relationship between ICT development (as measured by the IDI) and the MDGs, a contribution to the ongoing discussions on the potential of ICTs as development enablers. The report includes the results of the ICT Price Basket (IPB) and new mobile-broadband price data for over 140 economies. Price data are analysed to provide insights into the relationship between affordability and income inequality, competition and regulation. The report also looks at new ICT data sources for measurement and examines the possible role of big data from the ICT industry for monitoring and development.

- In addition with the aim of strengthening measurement capabilities worldwide, the **World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium** is organized by ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau on the annual basis. It serves as a unique global forum to discuss international ICT policy and measurement topics. It brings together ICT ministers, heads of national telecom/ICT regulatory authorities and national statistical offices, heads of international organizations, chief executive officers of private sector companies, and statistical experts from around the world. The 13th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) will take place in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December 2015. WTIS-2015 will feature several high-level debates addressing

key questions related to ICT policy and measurement, including the role of ICT as a driver of innovation and entrepreneurship, in both developed and developing countries.

- Every year the **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day** (Para 121 of TAIS) is celebrated on the 17 of May, and aims to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
- In line with Para 103 of TAIS the **UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)**, where ITU plays the role of the rotating Chair/Vice-Chair, facilitates extensive collaboration and partnerships among the Chief Executives Board members in order to contribute to the achievement of the WSIS objectives, to help to maintain ICT-related issues as well as science and technology at the top of the UN Agenda and finally to mainstream ICT for Development issues in the mandate of CEB members. Since its creation several activities have been carried out under UNGIS aegis, including the following: Consultation on the Financial Mechanisms, Strengthening of the ICT component in UNDAFs, Link between WSIS and SDG, WSIS+10 Review.
- In line with Para 91 of the Tunis Agenda, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau has been carrying out series of activities related to the **emergency telecommunications**, like supporting countries in disaster response, developing ebola info sharing application, developing global partnerships for disaster reduction, contributing to and organizing regional and global events, e.g. a **Global Forum on Emergency Telecommunications** will be held in January 2016, in Kuwait.

  In addition, **Smart Sustainable Development Model (SSDM) Initiative** aims to create actions necessary to deploy the crucial telecommunications infrastructure that contribute to giving rapid assistance in case of natural disasters, and could also be used as a working tool to foster economic and social development, providing community telecommunication services where people can have access to education, health or best practices in any particular field. The objectives of the Initiative is among the others to harness the potential of ICTs in changing lives through development and saving lives at times of emergencies, link rural telecommunications/ ICT development to both disaster risk reduction and management efforts, make optimal use of scarce and high cost resources such as satellite systems by putting in use unused satellite capacity.