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(CSTD)**

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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on
their efforts in 2017 to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 21st session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

<p>DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.</p>

Reporting to CSTD on the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes in 2017

Action Line C4. Capacity Building

In 2017, UNITAR contributed to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and specifically to Action Line C4, Capacity Building. UNITAR's core mandate is to diffuse and share cross-fertilizing knowledge, experience, and good practices, in order to strengthen capacities of national governments and other stakeholders to adopt and adapt Agenda 2030 and the Global Goals. To further its twofold mission of reaching the furthest first and leaving no one behind, UNITAR strives to ensure an increasingly wide-ranging diffusion of its expertise in order to have a concrete impact on all relevant actors from the national to the local level. This implies the use of innovative technology-based knowledge services, such as the development and implementation of e-learning modules designed to strengthen the human resources and capacities of countries in special situations, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and post-conflict countries.

UNITAR's e-learning platform is a key component of its training strategy, as almost one third of UNITAR's training events are delivered through this medium. In 2016, 28% of UNITAR's 456 training events were delivered through our e-learning platform. The channelling of ICT for the purpose of distance learning and training as part of UNITAR's capacity building activities, mainstreamed across all programmes and in a range of fields including mainstreaming, implementation and review of Agenda 2030; climate change; mercury management; conflict and post-conflict theory and practice; public finance and debt management; trade and intellectual property rights; etc. contributes to providing officials and professionals greater access to high quality education. The deployment of e-learning also helped promote regional cooperation in capacity building through the networking and virtual collaboration of experts and institutions across regions. In 2017, as part of its holistic e-learning strategy, UNITAR conducted different types of networking and collaborative activities including virtual discussions, group exercises, and communities of practice which contributed to linking experts, officials, and institutions across countries and regions.