

**COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT
(CSTD)**

**Twenty-first session
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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

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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.

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.

The Director

DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

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Dear Ms Sirimanne,

I write in response to the letter dated 2 November 2017 from Secretary-General Kituyi addressed to the OECD Secretary-General. In Secretary-General Kituyi's letter, he requests contribution from the OECD towards the report to be submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

Although the OECD was not specifically part of the Tunis Agenda and the Tunis Commitment, and therefore has no follow-up commitments, we are pleased to continue to provide information on our work to enhance co-operation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. We would like to direct your attention to a few relevant OECD initiatives.

The OECD recently discussed how unequal access and use of the Internet could hold back the potential of the digital economy in the [Digital Economy Outlook 2017](#). This publication notes that government policy has not kept pace with digital innovation and the resulting transformation of economies and societies. It calls on countries to step up their efforts, invest more in education and skills and encourage greater use of advanced technologies such as big data analysis and cloud computing, in particular by small businesses, to make the digital shift more productive and inclusive.

The recent [OECD Telecommunication and Broadcasting Review of Mexico 2017](#) is also relevant to implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and to good practice development. The Review notably credits Mexico's legal and regulatory reform with helping create an environment that enabled price reductions of up to 75% in mobile broadband packages, better quality services and the addition of 50 million mobile broadband subscriptions – more than the population of Colombia. In this context it can be noted that the Mexican telecom and broadcasting sectors have grown faster than the broader economy since the overhaul.

I would also like to draw your attention to the OECD/IDB project on “Broadband Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean: A Digital Economy Toolkit” (<http://www.oecd.org/internet/broadband/lac-digital-toolkit/>). The English version of this publication was launched in June 2016 and the Spanish version in November 2016. This joint initiative by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the OECD seeks to encourage the expansion of broadband networks and services in the region, supporting a coherent and cross-sectorial approach, to maximise their benefits for economic and social development. Drawing on a wealth of experience from LAC and OECD countries, the Toolkit outlines the main policy objectives in this area and provides guidance for their measurement, an overview of developments in the region, and a compilation of good practices in several areas related to broadband policy making.



I hope this information is useful in the preparation of the annual report. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the materials referred to above or our work on digital economy policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Wyckoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Wyckoff