

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

**Twenty-third session
Geneva, 23 to 27 March 2020**

**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international
organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2019 to
implement the outcomes of the WSIS**

Submission by

World Bank Group

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 23rd 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.

Response to UNCTAD-CSTD request for WSIS Reporting 2019

Prepared by the World Bank Group¹

The following report is submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) by the World Bank Group (WBG) as part of its commitment to report annually on the implementation of the Action Plan of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS – Geneva 2003; Tunis 2005). This is in line with ECOSOC Resolution 2006/46. The report follows the template proposed by the CSTD, its letter of August 16, 2019, and confirmed in ECOSOC Resolution 2017/21.

Part One: Executive Summary

The World Bank Group continues to be fully committed to upholding the principles set out in the WSIS Declaration of Principles and implementing the WSIS Action Plan. It does this, in concert with other development partners, through its lending program (including credits and grants made available through the International Development Association), through its technical assistance program, through its analytical work program, and through the private sector activities of the IFC. New initiatives in 2019 include the launch, on October 17, 2019, of the report of the Working Group of UN Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development on the theme of Connecting Africa through Broadband (sometimes known as the Digital Africa Moonshot). All WSIS stakeholders are invited to join the Digital Development Partnership, a multi-partner Trust Fund established with the aim strengthening the digital economy.

Part Two: Trends and Experiences in WSIS Implementation

Interest amongst the membership of the World Bank in the development of the Information Society, and in particular of the Digital Economy, continues to grow. To this end, in 2018, the World Bank formally separated the “Digital Development” team from the Transport and ICT Global Practice as a new Global Practice in its own right. The DD team continues to collaborate with other parts of the World Bank in WSIS implementation, notably the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation (FCI) and Governance Global Practices, the Technology and Innovation Lab, and the Telecommunications Media and Technology (TMT) team within the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

During 2019, highlights have included:

- The publication, on October 17, 2019, of the **report of the Working Group of the UN Broadband Commission on the theme of Connecting Africa through Broadband** (sometimes known as the Digital Africa Moonshot)². The report contains a commitment by the WBG to invest some US\$25 bn in achieving the goal of connecting all African Governments, Businesses and Citizens to high-speed internet by the year 2030. This would be just under a quarter of the expected infrastructure and related costs required to meet the goal (see Figure 1).
- Completion of a large number of **Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A) diagnostic studies**, using a common methodology based around five pillars of digital infrastructure, platforms, financial service, skills and entrepreneurship. The initial round of DE4A studies completed in FY19 included Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal,

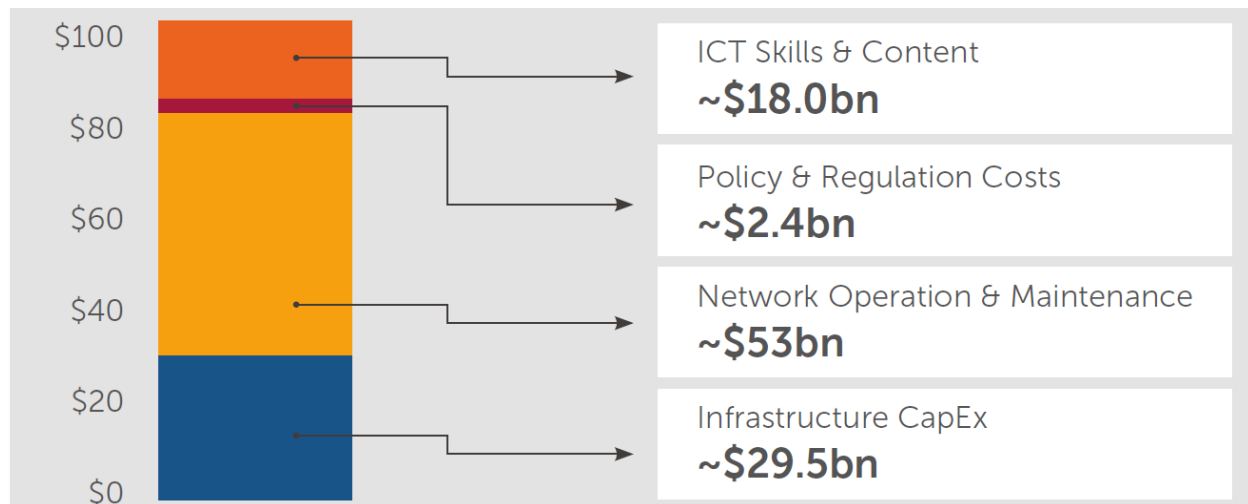
¹ For follow up, please contact Tim Kelly (tkelly@worldbank.org) and Samia Melhem (SMelhem@worldbank.org)

² The final report of the Working Group is available at:

<https://broadbandcommission.org/workinggroups/Pages/WG2-2018.aspx>.

South Africa and the Seychelles. Another cohort of studies is currently under preparation while others have been requested for FY21.

Figure 1: Estimate investment costs (in US\$bn) required to reach the goal of universal broadband access in Africa by the year 2030



Source: Report of the UN Broadband Working Group on Connecting Africa with Broadband.

- **Launch of a new report on the “Future of Work in Africa”,** in June 2019, building on the 2019 World Development Report (WDR) on the “Future of Work”. The 2020 WDR will return to the theme of data and development.
- Building upon this analytical work (regional Africa studies, country-specific diagnostic studies, and Future of Work), **a series of new digital lending programs have been launched, or are under preparation.** This includes, for instance, the Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Program (KDEAP), the Ethiopia Digital Foundations Project, Digital Tanzania, Niger Smart Villages, and several more.
- **Launch of a new report on a digital single market for East Africa,** as a prelude to the launch of a new development policy lending (DPL) operation in the region.
- The expansion of the Digital Identification for Development (**ID4D**) program, with a new regional program lending launched in West Africa (WURI).
- The expansion, both in funding and membership, of the **Digital Development Partnership**, a multi-partner Trust Fund, established by the WBG, of its implementation of the 2016 World Development Report on *Digital Dividends*. Membership of the DDP is open to all development partners.
- Technical assistance programs in the field of digital development continues in a wide-range of countries. Of particular interest is the support the WBG is providing to the establishment of **new ICT regulatory authorities** in Ethiopia, Seychelles and Somalia.

Part Three: Ongoing and Future Initiatives

Among the different initiatives listed above, the DDP is particularly closely related to the WSIS action plan. During 2019, a fourth tranche of funding for DDP programs was launched in August 2019. This followed on from discussions at the DDP annual workshop, held in Seoul, Korea, on 16-17 October 2018. The DDP windows can be matched to the WSIS Action Lines, as shown in the table below.

DDP activity / Pillar	Corresponding WSIS action line(s)
<p>1. Data and Indicators, including “Doing Business Digitally” and “IC4D2018: Data Driven Development”, Existing activities include studying the regulation of disruptive technologies and operationalizing Big Data Analytics in WBG lending programs. New activities include a study of Fragility, Conflict and Violence as a context for digital economies, the Gender Dimensions of the Digital Economy, the Poverty and Welfare Benefits of Digitization, and Leveraging Data for Development. Other new activities include Strategies to Operationalize Data-driven development and a global study of Artificial Intelligence for Development,</p>	<p>Partnership for Measuring the Information Society C11 – International Co-operation</p>
<p>2. Digital Economy Enabling Environment, including “Toolbox for the Digital Economy”. Existing country-specific programs underway in South Africa, Egypt and Rwanda. New activities include joint work with ITU on a Digital Regulation Handbook and Toolkit Online (for publication to mark the 20th anniversary of the original Telecoms Regulation Handbook); a study of competition policy in digital markets, and country-specific activities in Angola, Cote d’Ivoire, Lesotho and Uganda. New Regional activities launched include digital economy assessments in eight countries of South East Asia, a West Africa regulatory watch initiative and a study of digital uptake in Central Asia.</p>	<p>C6 – enabling environment</p>
<p>3. Cybersecurity, including “Cybersecurity Maturity Model Assessments” and “Capacity-building for policy makers”. Existing activities launched in Brazil, India and Turkey. New activities include cybersecurity capacity-building in India and engagement in the Global Forum for Cybersecurity Expertise, which held its 2019 meeting in Ethiopia.</p>	<p>C4 – capacity building C5 – Global culture of cybersecurity</p>
<p>4. Internet for all, including “Innovative business models for closing the access gap”. Existing activities were launched in Ethiopia, which is undertaking a major reform of its telecom sector, and for a digital single market in East Africa. New activities include a feasibility study for what it would take to connect every African University to high-speed broadband, Models for reaching the bottom 10 per cent, and a study of 5G mobile communications.</p>	<p>C2 – Infrastructure</p>
<p>5. Digital Government, including “WDR16 MOOC” and “Digital Government Assessment Framework” to be tested in select countries based on strong counterpart’s demand. Existing activities were launched in Sri Lanka and Vietnam. New activities include Mobilizing Finance for Development (MFD) in Global Data and Cloud Infrastructure, Implementation of the Digital Africa Moonshot, Advanced Cloud Systems for Digital Government Platforms, and the HELP Network.</p>	<p>C3-Access to information and knowledge C4 – capacity building C6- enabling environment C7, eGovernment</p>
<p>6. Mainstreaming digital services, applications and platforms, including in the agriculture, transport and education sectors.</p>	<p>C3 – Access to information and knowledge</p>

Existing activities include the Lake Victoria cargo drone challenge and a digital skills initiative in Asia. New activities include pilot engagements in the Agriculture, Education, Environment, Energy, Transport and urban Development sectors	C7 (all)
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